Vol. 38

JANUARY, 1991

No. 1

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."

1 Peter 2:11

SHINING SHORE

My days are gliding swiftly by And I, a pilgrim stranger, Would not detain them as they fly—Those hours of toil and danger.

We'll gird our loins, my brethren dear, Our heavenly home discerning; Our absent Lord has left us word, Let every lamp be burning.

Should coming days be cold and dark, We need not cease our singing; That perfect rest naught can molest Where golden harps are ringing.

Let sorrow's rudest tempest blow, Each chord on earth to sever; Our King says come, and there's our home, Forever! O forever!

For now we stand on Jordan's strand, Our friends are passing over, And, just before, the shining shore We may almost discover.

-David Nelson, 1835

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Happiness is having a friend." "Happiness is riding a horse." "Happines is a warm blanket." Sayings like these appear on bumper stickers, on bulletin boards and signs showing that indeed our generation is thinking of and defining happiness. The definitions vary and the ways to obtain it are many according to the desires of the ones seeking it.

By our observations of people --on the freeways and busy sidewalks-- and by our own experience, we must conclude that many are unhappy much of the time. No doubt this is because we seek for happiness in the wrong places and by the wrong means.

Sad to say, many associate Happy New Year with partying and excessive drinking. The morning after such celebrations they are anything but happy. And the accidents caused by drunkenness bring sorrow and remorse. So, as in other areas, the world's standard of happiness differs much from God's. The definition is different, and so are the means by which we find it.

Hannah Whitall Smith, the Quaker lady writing in The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life, says that happiness is a gift and not an attainment. also comments that many Christians are not happy: "A keen observer once said to me, 'You Christians seem to have a religion that makes you miserable. You are like a man with a headache. He does not want to get rid of his head, but it hurts him to keep it. You cannot expect outsiders to seek very earnestly for anything so uncomfortable. Then for the first time I saw, in a flash, that the religion of Christ ought to be, and was meant to be, to it's possessors, not something to make them miserable but something to make them happy..." So then happiness is a part of our Christian witness as

well as a desirable state to be in. This happiness we speak of is the real kind by God's definition and not the world's.

One reason so many are not receiving happiness they are not seeking it in the right is manner. We do not find happiness in the things of The Savior said (Luke 12:15), "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." I believe Jesus meant this very of happiness or satisfaction --fulfillment-- in our daily living. proceeded to tell of the rich man who had abundant crops with no room to store them. He decided to build bigger barns, lay up his goods and fruits, and then take it easy. That very night he was called to die: his soul was required of him. one else enjoyed the fruit of his labors. Jesus concluded with these sobering words: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

What then does bring happiness? Malachi 3:15 says, "And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered." How mixed up can men get? We read of martyrs who sang songs as they rode to the place of execution. People don't sing when they are terrified. They must have had a happiness the world knows nothing of. I Peter 4:14 says, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you..." Again he writes (3:14), "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: And be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled." James 5:11 says, "Behold, we count them which endure..." Obviously there something other than present physical comforts that produces happiness.

Joy is just one of the happy fruits listed in Galatians 5:22,23. Though we know this true happiness comes only by God's Spirit, there are still some requirements made of those who receive

it. Eliphaz, in criticizing Job, did speak some valuable truths. He said (Job 5:17), "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty." the writer of Hebrews continued the thought: "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." The car accident, the financial fiasco, a time of drouth or crop failure, or any number of problems we may encounter could well be God's fatherly correcting stroke. Did it ever occur to us to be happy for these if we can learn by them God's lesson to us? Uncle Ernest Wagner, in his disability, has written that our greatest lessons are learned through suffering affliction.

Proverbs 14:21 says "...He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." Proverbs 28:14 says, "Happy is the man that feareth alway," and Proverbs 29:18 says, "...He that keepeth the law, happy is he." Things we can do? Sure, by God's help.

Hannah Whitall Smith in her book on the Christian Secret goes on to represent that secret to happiness as being total commitment to Jesus Christ. Conversely, unhappiness comes when we know what is right and fail to do it, or serve our own desire instead. This harmonizes with what Paul writes in Romans 14:22, "...Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." And Jesus' own words in connection with His commands concerning washing one another's feet and being willing to serve one another are: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:17)

In this new year we can be truly happy if we have the mind of Christ. Psalm 40:7,8 prophesied of His attitude: "Then said I Lo, I come: in the volumne of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will 0 my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." With this attitude for 1991, we can be assured of true happiness and joy in the Lord.

THE MENACE OF MATERIALISTIC MINDS

In examining some of the individual's responsibilities of "FOLLOWING JESUS," I had to ask myself, "What keeps men from being in close fellowship with Jesus?" The problem was mentioned in a sentence: "All too often we savour the things in this world." Now let's examine this problem more closely.

Materialism is truly a menace or threat to His people, and always has been since Adam and Eve were distracted by the appeal of that fruit. Jesus dealt with this same type of problem well when He instructed the rich, young man, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." (Mt. 19:21,22)

In Samuel's day, the people also savoured the things of men. "And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre (money), took bribes, and perverted judgement. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." (1 Sam. 8:3-5) The key to their problem lay in the fact that they had departed from the "old paths" (Jer. 6:16), and were attending too much on worldly things. Read the account of Samuel counseling with the people in I Sam. 12. He pleads with them to "Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with ALL YOUR HEART..." (v.24) They realized they had sinned and in asking for a king added to their sins. (v.19) Notice that God did allow and choose a king for the Isrealites, but He chose a godly man who He hoped would bring His people back into His way. Clearly though, this was not God's original plan, and Samuel protested the idea but accepted God's decision. (8:6,7) Then, they lived happily ever after, right? Sad to say, no, they

didn't. There's a long story of coming and going from God. But each time they fell it was because they were attending too much to earthly things and affairs.

So we see this menace has been around since the beginning of man, and still is. Walk through any mall, any store, and you can even feel this menacing, hideous strength of worldly spirits. But, do we feel it? Have we been brought up so much in this materialistic spirit that we are unable to perceive it? What a dangerous position to be in to not be able to perceive things dangerous to our souls:

The great danger materialism can cause is the distraction from spiritual things. In thinking of the home, I believe the husband and wife start losing their FIRE for their Lord when they start attending more and more to earthly pleasures. When the home loses this FIRE, the Church has just lost some of its FIRE and the consequences will be detrimental to the Church. Jesus says, "... that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Lk. 16:15)

Brethren's past has been marred disputings and schisms over worldly things. The industrial revolution started hammering out kinds of nice things to distract Christians; which is exactly what it did to most. Automobiles. electricity, telephones, carpets, radios, television, electronics, and computers all have been subjects of disputings among brethren if Why? Because "The divisions. flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Gal. 5:17) So these disputings were influenced by materialistic spirit (flesh) undermining the Spirit of God, with the expected result of diminished love and then, division.

Consequently, the industrial revolution generated a denominational revolution. As a result, churches

either focused on externals, or disregarded externals. In either case, Satan made certain inroads into the Church, causing it to be less effective in its witness to the world. This has surely caused more damage to the Church than in the days of the Martyrs. They endured all kinds of torture and death, while we in comparison, lie on "flowery beds of ease" playing with our toys and bickering with one another. What a shame:

We must show the world that living for Jesus is a sharp, definite contrast from the world. We must show them that it is an entirely different SPIRIT. We must show them that Jesus' command "FOLLOW ME" means a whole new lifestyle of forsaking all of our former ways. We must DEMONSTRATE separation, self-denial, conformity to Christ, (by transforming our minds with the power of the Holy Spirit), and the fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal. 5:22.

One of the most outstanding virtues of Jesus' life was His dedication to His Father's will. His is the greatest example of self-denial. conforming wholly and unselfishly to His Father. What an example for us to follow! The Apostle Paul emphatically states, "But PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and make not provision for the flesh, to the lust thereof." (Ro. 13:14) translates this. "But CLOTHE YOURSELVES with our Lord Jesus, and disregard the lust of the flesh." It is something to put on and be covered with. Where do we wear it? "... I will put my laws into their MIND, and write them in their HEARTS: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." (He. 8:10) This is where we wear them and the result. This is what God wants -- a people separated unto Him, denying self to Him, conforming their whole being to Him. Does this describe us?

The life (light) of the Church totally depends on each and every member. The Apostle Paul tells us to glorify God in our body and in our spirit (I Co. 6:20), because our body is the temple, home, or dwelling place of the Holy Ghost. (v.19) We glorify God in our body by keeping our body pure

and undefiled, a home FIT for the Holy Ghost. We glorify God in our spirit by keeping ourselves from the spirits of the world and producing fruits of the Holy Spirit.

A dangerous spirit so prevalent today is that of merchandising. We live to buy. Something new "that we've always wanted," puts us in a good mood for awhile and makes our life seem so much brighter, richer, and fuller. Sure, we must have possessions to live, but what a tragedy it is when we let them possess us! Let's assess how much of our mind is taken up by them. "There are many devices in a man's heart," declares Proverbs 19:21. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are NOT "ignorant of his (Satan's) devices." (II Co. 2:11) They only serve to lure and distract. This is exactly how we can know whether something is right or not: by how much it distracts us from following the Lord and attending to righteousness and His people. "... The counsel of the Lord, that shall stand." (Pr. 19:21)

Let's honestly examine our motivating forces. Let's examine ourselves and see "what manner of spirit (we) are of." (Lk. 9:55) Is my mind being a menace to His Kingdom, His people? Are we clothing ourselves with humility? (I Pe. 5:5) Are we loving not the world, neither the things that are in the world? "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (I Jo. 2:15,16)

Finally, we need to be concerned that we are providing our children with sound teachings and examples. We need to pass on to them our convictions and our vision of the Church. We must provide DIRECTION to our children for when we are gone.

In conclusion, I'm impressed with one of Jesus' pleas to His Father: "That thou shouldest keep them from the evil." (Jo. 17:15) Isn't this what it's all about? That is why we are a separated people (II Co. 6:17), a "peculiar people" (Titus 2:14), "... a chosen generation, a royal priest-hood an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye

should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (life)". (I Pe. 2:9)

--Ron Cable Goshen, Indiana

INTERPRETATION OR OBEDIENCE?

St. John 16:13: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

While these words were spoken primarily to those followers of the time Jesus Christ walked the earth, and more specifically to the apostles, we believe all Scripture is given for our benefit. Certainly the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, will guide us into all truth if we allow Him to.

But if this is true why do so many Christians differ on so many issues? We do not profess to have the complete answer to that question. However, we believe our Brethren forefathers used wisdom when they put great emphasis on OBEDIENCE and much less on interpretation. This is not to say that they did not make it clear what they believed and why they believed it. But when Scripture instructed something to be obeyed they tried to follow that teaching, and when Scripture forbade something they attempted to avoid it. The plain way of life was not so much Bible interpretation as it was Bible obedience.

Man's interpretation has led to denial of divine creation. It questions who God is, the divinity of Jesus Christ, and the personality the Holy Spirit, among many other things. man's interpretation leads him to make the "Awareness following statement: of God's limitation requires reconstruction in theology. We will refrain from using the 'Almighty God.' We will avoid escapist tendencies to say: 'The future is in God's hands' or 'God is in control.' "

Some areas of interpretation have caused unfortunate splits and bad feelings among brethren. Prophecy is one of these. Some types of interpretation we feel are very dangerous. One of these is unconditional eternal security. Some interpretations are downright blasphemy, such as the one listed above. Most, if not all of us, will differ on Bible interpretation at one time or another. If this interpretation involves an area of obedience we may be judged by God for not allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth or for disobedience to His Holy Word.

--James M. Hite Palmyra, Pennsylvania

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

REFLECTIONS

When we are old, and disabled, we remember the days when we had good health, and enjoy the memories of them, but we cannot go back and live them over. Jesus has promised us a far better life, when He has fully converted us to enter the place He has prepared for us. We have the example when Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him more than his old life as a fisherman. So where should our joys and hopes be fixed or anchored?

LOVE MERCY

Micah 6:8: "He hath shewed thee, 0 man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Jesus told us whom He would call to come unto His kingdom on the final judgement. Deeds of mercy and compassion are the most important. All have the opportunity to do these.

LEARNING OBEDIENCE

Heb. 5:8: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." So we see we need to obey the Lord in all things, even if it doesn't appear right to us. Job thought God wasn't treating him fair, but God wanted to give him a great blessing. Our greatest lessons are learned through suffering afflictions.

PERILOUS TIMES

II Tim 3:1: "This know also, that in the last days, perilous times shall come." I think we all are aware of this.

The news that is gathered from all over the world and published and broadcasted daily, has to come through propaganda offices, where it is distorted to favor the interest of the different countries. By this means people are influenced, and hatred and war are promoted.

OUR CROWNS

II Timothy 4:8: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

We find this crown called other names, as crown of life, glory, etc. It must bring us into direct contact with God and Christ.

We will not become tired and weary and need rest and sleep, as we do in this life.

--Ernest Wagner

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Jesse Cover's phone number 586-1397

EARTHEN VESSEL

An earthen vessel, Lord, am I, A thing of mud and clay. I wait my Master's tender touch To fill me every day.

I know You cannot use me, Lord,
If I'm already filled
With thoughts of self...or worldliness
Or hate...or stubborn willed.

And Lord, it is so hard for me To empty out the dross: I try so hard; I struggle so... And yet it all seems loss.

So take this earthen vessel, Lord, And wash it nice and new; Cleanse every little nook, and then Please fill it, Lord, with You!

Then pour me out to bless some soul Who stumbles on the way. I only ask You use me, Lord Just use me, Lord, today:

--Vera Miller Pioneer, California

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us."

--II Corinthians 4:6,7

He who is on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone.

Historical

JOHN NAAS, 1670-1741

John Naas, was second in ability to none, of all colonial ministers. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, twelve miles north of Emden. He possessed much native ability and received a He joined the Creyfeld education. called to congregation, where he was soon ministry. He went far and near on missionary tours and was very successful in bringing souls into the At Creyfeld he was a wise and tolerant knigdom. leader in the church. He opposed the narrow policy of Christian Libe and his followers, and for some years retired to Switzerland from active work.

In 1733 he came to America, perhaps at the invitation of Alexander Mack. In a letter to his son he has given a most vivid account of the horror of the sea voyages in those days. He was welcomed at Germantown, but settled at Amwell, N.J., where he was the organizer and elder of the Amwell Church. He also organized the Great Swamp Church. His influence for good was felt in many of the colonial churches. He visited Ephrata in 1736, hoping to effect a reconciliation with Beissel. In this he failed, but was much impressed with many things he saw at Ephrata.

Elder Naas was a broad-minded, large-hearted man. He was most eloquent in preaching. He was a writer collected of many good poems, which were published under the title, The Little Harp. of powerful physical build, being nearly taller than the ordinary man. For this reason he was one time seized by the agents of the Prussian king, who desired just such men for his regiment of After cruel torture, to force giants. compliance, he was brought before the king himself, him released after hearing his earnest profession of loyalty to Jesus Christ.

He was twice married, and had three children. Only one daughter came to America. She married Hannes Landes, who after a short stay with Beisæl

at Ephrata, became a faithful member of the Conestoga Church. Elder Nass was buried in the cemetery at Amwell, though no stone marks his grave.

--from History and Doctrine of the Church of the Brethren --Otho Winger

?? QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ??

We have had several requests for a question and answer section in <u>The Pilgrim</u>. In 1966 and 1973-75 we had questions and answers, and perhaps we can revive it. We have the first question for this issue and invite any who would to send in an answer. If you have a question please feel free to send it to <u>The Pilgrim</u>.

QUESTION: How can we discern what and how should use in material things? It is very n It is very much appreciated and agreed upon that we don't write down just exactly what is acceptable and what materially, other than what the not, Scriptures It seems to me we have different needs say. different stages of our life. Should we not take this into account before we judge if another should have or do it or if it is in place for ourselves? Read Romans 14. Please help me to understand this better.

--A fellow pilgrim desiring to understand the Word Better and to live in such a way that I would be a witness for Christ.

With this issue we begin the thirty-eighth year of The Pilgrim. We are grateful to all who helped so faithfully. Feel free to send favorite poems, or articles, or your own writing. Most subscriptions expire this month and will noted beside your name on the address. If you are receiving The Pilgrim free, please let us know if we should continue. We thank Bill Miller supplying our address labels, Peter and Sarah Cover for typing, and others who help in various ways. Leslie and Martha Cover

One can gloss a problem over and try to forget it, or one can face the problems head-on and fight until the victory is won and true peace is acheived.

There was a man who borrowed money so that he could increase his living standard. When his bills came due he borrowed more money to keep going. After a period of time he was faced with bank-ruptcy. After the court sold all his things and paid his debt he was left homeless, hungry, and cold, on the street.

There was another man who also borrowed money and became bankrupt. But he cut his spending, made bargains with his creditors to give him another chance, and worked hard to earn more money. After he had paid his last bill, he was a changed man. He now owns instead of owes.

The first man glossed his problem over until it defeated him. The other man fought his problem until he got victory.

Every person is born with a sin nature which one must fight ones whole life. Life has only two ends, Heaven and Hell.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor, 15:57)

Will you surrender to God and fight self, or will you let self defeat you?

--Danny Wagner Gettysburg, Ohio

Things mostly happen for the best.

However hard it seems today,

When some fond plan has gone astray

Or what you've wished for most is lost

An'you sit countin' up the cost

With eyes half-blind by tears of grief

While doubt is chokin' out belief,

You'll find when all isunderstood

That what seemed bad was really good.

--Edgar A. Guest

CHILDREN'S PAGE

GOD MAKES NO MISTAKES

The animals of the forest decided to do something meaningful about the problems of the They adopted an activity curriculum running, climbing, swimming, and flying. The duck was excellent in swimming, but only made passing grades in flying and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running he had to swimming and stay after school to practice This caused his webbed feet to be badly running. so he was only average in swimming. rabbit started at the top of his class in running but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because of so much makeup work in swimming. squirrel was excellent in climbing but had problem in flying classes because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of the treetop The eagle was a problem child. In climbing classes he beat all the others to the top of the tree but insisted on his own way of getting there.

What is true of the creatures of the forest is true of God's Children. We are not all made the same. We each have our special talents that we can do better than others. Never compare yourself with your friends. When we do this we become disatisfied with ourselves. Remember the duck. He was an excellent swimmer, but when he tried to be the same as everyone else, he couldn't do anything really well. Jesus wants you to be just you.

We are little builders, rearing block by block;
And our sure foundation is the solid rock.
Not for wealth we're building, nor for praise of
But for our redeemer, doing all we can. [man
--Everett Oyler (E.R. Latta)

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NO. 2

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

HARK: THE VOICE OF JESUS

Hark the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white, and harvests waiting;
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I; send me, send me."

If you cannot be the watchman Standing high on Zion's wall, Pointing out the path to Heaven, Offering life and peace to all, With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what Heaven demands; You can be like faithful Aaron Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying,
And the Master calls for you,
Take the task He gives you gladly;
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here Am I; send me, send me."

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OUR SAVIOUR'S PEACE

Our country is at war! It seems unreal, because for many years there has been peace. It seems that the nations cannot be long without war. But what should our attitudes be in the light of Jesus' words and seeing the present conflict in the Middle East? What should a young Christian do if he is called on to fight for his country?

When a nation is at war, does the Sermon on the Mount suddenly not apply? In re-reading the Saviour's teaching in Matthew 5, it is hard to escape the simple meaning of His words. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust." (Matthew 5:43) It seems evident that these instructions are for those who desire to be like our Heavenly Father. It is not directed to nations, but to Jesus' followers. Can we find violations of these words in the New Testament account of Jesus disciples? Are inconsistencies there? No.

The words of the hymn writer Lydia A. Forney are so fitting here:

If I would be a child of God, I surely must obey His word; With cheerful heart and willing mind, To all His precepts be inclined.

Through the ages of the Church of Jesus Christ, His people have "obeyed His word" in loving their enemies. They have prayed for their persecutors. The long list of martyrs testifies to this. They went to torture and death praying for the forgiveness of those who were piling the logs on the fire. Stephen's testimony was only the beginning.

John Naas, (the subject of our historical article this month and last) Brethren minister in Germany. was wanted by the Prussian king's army because of his great stature. The recruiters tried to force him to join and even tortured him and finally suspended him by his thumb and great toe, but he not vield. Taken before the king testified that he had "enlisted in the noblest and best army: and I cannot become a traitor to my King." Asked who this King was, he replied, "The great Prince Immanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. have espoused His cause, and cannot and will not forsake Him." The king replied, "Neither will I then ask you to do so." He gave him a gold coin and released him.

During World War I, in our country, conscientious objectors proved they could be steadfast for the Lord. There was no provision by the military authorities for their views. They simply were given army clothes and ordered to put them on. When some would not, they were sent to prison and subjected to deprivation and abuse to force them to comply. Many patiently endured, and several Hutterite boys even died from the rough treatment.

There were also instances of unfaithfulness to Jesus' commands on the mount. The Waldensians for many years did not resist their persecutors. Their adversaries, the Roman church and state authorities. would trick them, pretending to make peace to lure them from their mountatin retreats. When they came down trusting, they were mercilessly seized and put Finally, in desperation, they began to resist the military attacks on their mountain They were quite successful in holding narrow passes with only a handful of men against great numbers. But how can we justifly violation of our Saviour's words? No earthly peace or victory is worth the disapproval of the King of Heaven.

Another violation among otherwise non-resistant people was in Russia during the Bolshevic Revolu-

tion. The Mennonites had lived in peace in the Ukraine since their migration there in 1786 from They were promised exemption from military Germany. service. The Ukraine, through a treaty in 1918, was given to Germany for a time. But later the same year communist soldiers began to recapture the Ukraine. Some of the young Mennonites organized to resist and fought on the side of the Germans. In the end it meant severe persecution for the Mennonite Christians by the Communists. The towns that had not resisted fared better than the rest. But the greatest reward is the approval of our Heavenly Father no matter what it may mean in our earthly affairs.

In our time we see churches failing to stand on the words of Jesus. In one Brethren denomination some years ago we were told the churches would support the young men in any stand they chose to take: conscientious objector, non-combatant in the military, or active military. How sad that the young men must rely on their own understanding without decisive teaching from their church leaders:

We are privileged to have been given good, solid teaching on the attitude of the Christian to military service. We do not attempt to judge our country for its decisions in regard to wars. The Saviour told us there would be wars. But He did not say it was the Father's will. And He did call us and all His followers to a higher Kingdom with a divine government. Jesus told Pilate that if His Kingdom were of this world, His servants would fight "That I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36)

This Kingdom is ordered by God who says, "Vengeance is mine: I will repay,: He tells us to overcome evil with good. Our battle is a spiritual one and the weapons are not guns. (Read II Cor 10:4-6)

We must respect and pray for our country's leaders, obey its laws, and pay its taxes. But God's laws are first for Christians. We need to show by our lives (And death if nesessary) that Jesus' words are just as important today as when He spoke them.

THE DAY

This is the day which the Lord hath made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

We enjoy to hear the melody of this verse sung by the school children. We believe it is a good way to start a new day (as we think of a day) although we believe this text found in Psalm 118 had a different significance than a 24 hour day.

The word <u>day</u>, defined, can mean various time spans. The most common is a 24 hour span when the earth makes one revolution. Or it can mean a period of day light, or a period of action or state of being without definite reference of time. The latter, we feel is the context in which the text was quoted.

Psalm 118 is a beautiful testimony of God's love and salvation to man, and it is climaxed in praise and adoration.

"I will praise thee, for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation."

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner."

"This is the Lord's doing; it is $\underline{\text{marvellous}}$ in our eyes."

"This is the $\underline{\text{day}}$ which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

It is claimed by some that this was the theme of the hymn that was sung that night in the upper room. How fitting this would have been:

Jesus quotes some of those very words in His final testimony to men. He told them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will build it up." He said unto them, "Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" The psalmist saw this day and rejoiced in it.

As man marvelled and magnified the temple of stones that crumbled, how much more ought we

respond, when we view this new temple that will never crumble. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (I Peter 2:9)

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the <u>day</u>: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (I Thessalonians 5:5,6)

1991 will only be an extension of this marvellous day. Only those who have accepted the Chief Corner Stone and are receiving the benefits can rejoice and be glad in it.

May the day dawn, and the day star arise in our hearts that we can identify with those who revealed this marvellous truth to us long before it came to pass (David) and when it finally was revealed (Simeon and Anna).

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

THE WALL CAME DOWN

When the Berlin wall was built in 1961, traffic between the two sides of the city was greatly limited. I knew a few persons who had gone into East Berlin through Checkpoint Charlie and came back again. But for the multitudes of people living in the eastern sector, that wall was the roadblock to freedom. Some in desperation tried to escape under the wall or over the wall. Some tried to make it through the wall itself. I remember hearing how slanted mirrors on wheels were used by the officials to look for escapees clinging to the underside of vehicles going through Checkpoint Charlie. For over 25 years the Berlin Wall stood as a divide between the East and the West, between bondage and freedom, between want and plenty.

The year 1990 saw that "Wall of Shame" come down.

We saw pictures of the joyful Berliners standing on the wall that had once held them in. We saw the celebrating men striking the wall with sledge hammers. Already over a hundred passages have been broken though the wall. The way is now open. No longer is passage restricted to a carefully guarded checkpoint. The demolition of that wall is a very significant milestone toward a unified Germany.

When the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," they were heralding the coming of One who would demolish a far greater "Wall of Shame" than the Berlin Wall. For about 4000 years a wall had existed between sinful man and the Holy God. That Wall was first erected when Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden because of sin. The Garden was then guarded by an angel with a flaming sword. Sin made a wall between man and God.

Man was again reminded that the way to God was very limited when a wall eight and one-half feet high cut off access to the tabernacle. The walls of the tabernacle itself limited access into the Holy Place. Then before the Holy of Holies itself was a thick curtain. Behind that curtain was the Ark of the Covenant that signified God's presence with His people, Only once a year could the High Priest go behind the curtain.

God so much wanted to be near His people, but sin stood in the way of a sinful people coming directly to their holy God. The presence of the tabernacle was physical evidence that God wanted to be with man; but the veil or curtain in the tabernacle and later the temple was a physical reminder that there was a "wall" between man and God.

Then one day almost 2000 years ago at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the wall came down. "And the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom." (Mark 15:38) That happened when Jesus Christ died. His death made a way for us sinful men to come directly to God. Before that, sin closed the way and placed on us the penalty of death. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." But

God sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for man. An opening was made in the wall between man and God. The way is now open. That is the peace on earth, goodwill toward men that the angels were singing about. That was good news that surpassed the opening of the Berlin Wall.

But the position of a person behind an opened wall will not change unless he goes through the opening. And so it is with the opening in the wall that Jesus made, Just because He died does not mean that all men are saved. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) We were not surprised that thousands of East Germans poured through the opened Berlin Wall. But why do not more people come to God through the opened way of Jesus Christ who said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"? That way is still open; the opportunity to enter is still there. Why should anyone choose to stay in the bondage of sin away from God?

With rejoicing that the wall came down
--Lester E. Showalter
Greencastle, Pennsylvania

COMMUNION NOTICE

We, the members of the Eastern congregation of the Old Brethren Church, have appointed a Lovefeast and Communion for April 27 and 28, the Lord willing, at our meeting house near Wakarusa, Indiana.

A hearty welcome is extended to all our members and friends to attend. --Melvin Coning

ADDRESS CHANGES

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??QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS??

QUESTION: How can we discern what and how we should use in material things? It is very much appreciated and agreed upon that we don't write down just exactly what is acceptable and what is not, materially, other than what the Scriptures say. It seems to me we have different needs at different stages of our life. Should we not take this into account before we judge if another should have or do it or if it is in place for us ourselves?

Read Roamns 14. Please help me to understand this better.

--A fellow pilgrim deisiring to understand the Word better and to live in such a way that I would be a witness for Christ.

ANSWER: Material things cover a big area. We are all individuals—no two alike. Each person using what he thinks he needs at different stages of his life is a scary thought to me. No matter what I have, my brother has no right to question my action?

I am thankful my brethren are concerned enough to help keep me in check. We all need to become closer together. Some say everything we do is just between us and God. Don't we have a responsibility to the Church? If so, aren't my brothers and sisters part of it?

I too, fully appreciate that we don't have everything written down--what we can or can't have. If it weren't for the closeness of each other we couldn't operate this way. I trust we all want to leave our little group as good as when we came. Someone has wisely said, "If some people were a little more careful how they step, the little ones who follow wouldn't stumble so much."

--Everett Oyler

ANSWER: The proper judgement in the use of material things seems to be summed up in Colossians 3:17: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do

all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him!

If our life is committed to Him, our desire will be to use every effort and every possession to bring honour and praise to Him. If something will hinder that effort, we will not really want it, because we want to live for Him.

Romans 14 points out that using or not using material things does not determine our position before God. Our attitudes in using or not using them is very important. It says we should do our best to be inoffensive in our use of these things in order to not be a stumbling block to the weak.

The primary emphasis of this chapter seems to be that we should not be critical or judgemental of each other. This judgement belongs to God, and it is clear we will give account to Him.

Perhaps the essence of Romans 14 is found in verse 19: "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another".

--James Beery

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION: Jesus said "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." (Matthew 7:6) Who are the dogs and the swine?

-Everett Oyler

BAPTISM

Once again we were made to rejoice with the angels in heaven when another soul gave his heart to the Lord. Eric Brubaker was baptized on January 20 confessing his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and covenanting to live faithful through life to Him. We pray that his witness will encourage others to also find and travel the "Highway of Holiness" that leads to eternal life.

-Melvin Coning

OBITUARY

SUSANNA WAGNER, known and loved as "Susie", was born on September 17, 1896, near Quinter, Kansas, daughter of Daniel Webster and Mary Fitz (Wolf) Wagner.

The Wagner family moved in 1901 to Sheridan Lake, Colorado, where she spent 12 years of her youth on a prairie farm. While living there, Susie accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and was baptized in January, 1911, at the tender age of 14 years. She remained faithful to her Lord and the Church until death.

In 1913 the family moved west to Reedley, California, and then settled at Modesto in 1916 where she resided the rest of her life.

Susie departed this life in Modesto on January 10, 1991, at the age of 94 years, 3 months, and 24 days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, David and Clay; one half brother, John; and two half brothers and two half sisters in infancy.

She is survived by one sister, Elizabeth Cover and one brother, Ernest P. Wagner; also 9 nephews, 5 neices, and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Susie spent many years of her life caring for her parents and was always generous to share what she had. Her non-assertive manner and meek disposition has touched many lives and is an example of the Christian life.

Funeral services were conducted from Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel by Joseph L. and Leslie Cover on January 12 using Susie's selection of Psalm 103 and Hymns 451 and 75. Burial service at Wood Colony Cemetery was conducted by Lloyd Wagner.

-- The Family

Life with Christ is an endless hope; without Him it is a hopeless end.

(For our historical selection we have the first part of a long letter from Elder John Naas to his son Jacob Wilhelm who was living in Switzerland. The letter describes the journey across the Atlantic from Europe to the New World and some of the hardships endured. This is taken from A History of the Brethren by Martin Grove Brumbaugh.)

Germantown, the 17th of Oct., 1733.

Heartily Beloved Son, Jacob Wilhelm Naas,

I greet thee and thy dear wife Margareta, together with her dear children, very heartily... The eternal and almighty God give you all much light of grace and faith so that you may not only choose the good in time of grace, but may you also win the true and active faith, in true sanctification and childlike obedience in Christ Jesus. Would that the great God through Jesus Christ might work this within us and in all who love his appearance. Amen, yes Amen.

As I have been requested by some to describe our journey, I have not been able to refuse it entirely, therefore I will do it in as short a way as possible

The 24th of June we went from Rotterdam to within half an hour's distance from Dort, where we lay
still, the wind being contrary. On July 3rd we
started and the ship was drawn by men several times
on the river Maas, as far as the neighberhood of
Helvoetsluys. There the wind became favorable so
that we sailed into the sea on July 5th, near Helvoetsluys. Then the seasicknes began among the
people, that is dizziness and vomiting. The
greatest number after having vomited could begin to
eat again.

On the 13th of July, early in the morning, we arrived in the port of Plymouth, which port lies in the midst of rocks. We had to lie in the middle of the harbor until the ship was released by the custom officers and provisioned.

On July 21st we sailed into the big ocean and on our left we lost the land, France and Spain. The 24th we also lost it on our right, namely England. The 25th a little child died. It came upon the ship very sick; the next day about 8 o'clock it was buried in the sea. When the body fell from the plank into the water I saw with great astonishment that a large number of big fish appeared and darted quickly away in front of the ship, as if they wished to flee from the corpse.

For ten days we had steadily a good breze, so that we sailed a long way on the big ocean.

The 28th of July, before daylight, a French man of war by the Elizabeth, came near us. This Captain examined our Captain in French. After having made themselves known to each other, they wished one another a happy trip and each went on his course.

After this day we had very changeable weather so that in three weeks we made only sixty hours (about 180 miles), which in very good wind we could have done in one day.

On August 3rd, I got up an hour before day in order to see how it was going, as I had made up my mind to watch the compass during the entire trip, to see if there would be a change in our course. When reached the ladder, all the people were still asleep and a bedstead was under the ladder, and the coverlet of the people lay high up against the ladder, and during the night it had been raining a little so that it was slippery under the trap-hole, and while I was standing on the top step of the ladder and was about to climb on deck, the people in their bed stretched themselves and unwittingly knocked the ladder from under my feet; then I fell down from the top and with my left side I struck upon the ladder, that I was almost unconscious and lay there a long time before I could get up. Then I had to lie on my back about two weeks till I could get up again and walk a little. At first I feared that I would remain lame, but to the great God be all the glory in His Son, who has caused me to get well again without

herbs or plaster, so that I feel but little of it any more.

The 4th the crew early in the morning spiked a big fish with a harpoon. It was as long as an ord-inary man and shaped in its head like a pig, also in body and insides like a pig.

The 7th of August during the night again a little child died and in the same hour a litle boy was born and the dead child buried at sea on the 8th.

The 11th and 12th we had a storm, which was not very strong; however, it lasted forty-eight hours, so that all the sails had to be reefed, the rudder fastened, and the portholes boarded up, so that we were sitting in darkness, while the force of the waves struck through the porthole glass into the beds. Some people always have to vomit during every storm and strong, stiff winds.

On the 13th again a little boy was born. The 17th we had another storm, which was much stronger than the first for six or eight hours and blew the sea very high up. It lasted for one and one-half nights, but towards the end was not so strong. Sails, rudder, holes, everything was hurriedly fastened up and left to wind and sea. After that it grew so calm that we did not get much from the spot during several days. During this time the people got well again from dizziness and vomiting. Then we got again strong wind from the side by which we made good headway.

On the 23rd of August again a child died and was buried at sea that evening.

The 26th, about 5 o'clock P.M., we passed by a mast standing fast, the point of which showed a half yard above the water, quite immovable and with ends of rope still on it. By good fortune our ship passed it at about a rod's distance. The Captain had just been drinking tea. Many people were very much frightened by this sight, because it was impossible for this mast to be standing on the bottom and it yet was immovable. —-to be continued

YOUTH PAGE: BIBLE STUDY: PEACE

(Some have been asking for an account of our young people's Bible Studies held on the second Sunday afternoon in the MiWuk meeting house. This is a summary of the discussion in January of "Peace" led by Brother William Crawmer.)

Our study chapter was Romans 5 about the peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Various other Scriptures were read as well. Brother Will asked the young folks what they thought peace meant. Some of the answers were calmness, kindness, absence of conflict, non-resistance, a fruit of the Spirit, etc.

The peace from God--a positive fruit of the Spirit--was compared to temporary peace among unbelievers which is only an absence of conflict.

Pacifists were contrasted to true non-resistants. "Pacifists" can sometimes be quite coercive and even violent in their campaigns against war. True non-resistance should include everyday conduct, relationship to neighbors, and basic attitudes. Young men especially need to keep a clean, consistent record of peaceful lives to obtain a "Conscientious Objector" classification in time of war. Non-resistants have a higher motive for peace: Jesus' command to love our enemies.

Peace was defined as "Reconciliation between God and man." Adam lost it and Jesus restored it.

One of the children asked, "What is tribulation?"
The answer was "trouble, the opposite of peace."
But we can have tribulation or trouble and even persecution and still have God's peace in our hearts
--I.C.

BIRTHS

CABLE - A son, Amos Lloyd, born January 7 to Ron and Faythe Cable of Goshen Indiana.

MARTIN - A son, Clement Jay, born January 24 to Neil and Lois Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

GOOD FLAVOR

Often I hear children say, "When I get big I want to be a farmer..." or "a mommy." It is great to be a farmer or a mommy, but there is something greater that Jesus wants you to be. He wants you to be a salt shaker. The salt is the Word of God. You can sprinkle it over this cold world. Today we see men with cold, cold hearts. When people have cold hearts, they will do anything to please themselves. One Sabbath day Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. A group of men with cold hearts tried to find a way to kill Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath day. When men do evil things today, Jesus tells His children to "please pass the salt." Spread it around so the hearts of men will melt and be pliable.

Without salt in the kitchen, the food you eat wouldn't taste good. Salt brings out the good flavor, and everything tastes yummy. Almost every time we sit down to a good meal someone says, "Please pass the salt." Next time you put salt on your food, think of Jesus. You are putting salt on your food to make it better. Jesus wants you to sprinkle His salt (His Word) on people to bring out the good flavor in them. You can decide that you can be a SALT SHAKER FOR JESUS.

--Everett Oyler New Paris, Indiana

... Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. (Mark 9:50)

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

CALVARY COVERS IT ALL

Far dearer than all that the world can impart Was the message that came to my heart; How that Jesus alone for my sin did atone, And Calvary covers it all.

The stripes that He bore and the thorns that He wore Told His mercy and love evermore;
And my heart bowed in shame as I called on His name,
And Calvary covers it all.

How matchless the grace, when I looked in the face Of this Jesus, my crucified Lord;
My redemption complete I then found at His feet,
And Calvary covers it all.

How blessed the thought, that my soul by Him bought, Shall be His in the glory on high, Where with gladness and song I'll be one of the And Calvary covers it all.

-- Mrs. Walter G. Taylor

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DO WE BELIEVE?

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The loud cry of the dying Savior echoed across the Judean hills and faded into silence. On the cross over His head was the sign giving His accusation in three different languages: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. His blood was flowing from His hands, His feet, His head where the thorns bit deeply, and His back where the scourge had cut.

Of the multitude watching the cross, some scoffed, and some wept; and one ran to get a sponge, filled it with vinegar (or sour wine) and lifted it for Jesus to drink. The two thieves, crucified one on each side of Jesus, had both been berating Him for doing nothing to save them. But then one of them began in his agony to plead for mercy. Jesus assured him of a place in Paradise. Gracious Savior, merciful even as He suffered:

We cannot justly describe the entire scene. You can read it in the four Gospels--for all the Gospel writers record these most important events of the sufferings, the death, and the Resurrection of the Savior. Some tell details that others omit, but all harmonize to record an event upon which the future of the world and the future of each individual surely was depending.

We cannot contemplate the Savior's death in indifference. It is a place of decision for each one hears the truth ofthe sacred sacrifice. Christendom has "long disputed and loud" whether or not we have choice in this matter of our salvation -- whether or not His blood washes my sins We are among those who believe man certainly does have a choice, in fact, must choose. sovereign and has decreed in wisdom beyond ours that there is a way man may be saved. That through the Savior, and there is no other.

When we say we beleive that man has a choice, we know that it is only within the limits that God has set up. In no way is man sovereign. We cannot choose to be anything that God has not made us to be. We must choose for the Savior or against Him. There is no third or fourth option. We cannot decide that we need not choose. And we cannot conclude that God has chosen for us and that we have no responsibility in the matter.

Yesterday is gone forever; tomorrow will soon be today. The god of this world (Satan) would have us believe that this will go on and on. But someday Jesus will come, and the opportunities to receive Him will be passed.

Some basic beliefs of the Christian faith are that Jesus is the Son of God and He brought from heaven a saving Gospel, and that He is coming again. This publication, The Pilgrim is set to proclaim these truths. We testify this day, as has been told over and over to each generation: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoseever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16, 17)

When Jesus healed the man who was born blind and that man got into trouble for giving Jesus honor as one from God, he was cast out of the synagogue. Jesus found him later and asked him, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" The man answered "Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?" And Jesus said to him, "Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee." The man said, Lord I believe." And he worshipped Him. Something a lot like this has to happen to each one of us. God has done so much for us. Do we beleive on the Son of God?

At the sixth hour and as the final minutes passed when Jesus was to die, the sun began to darken. "And there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour." The earth shook, the rocks

rent, the veil of the temple was "rent in twain from the top to the bottom." Jesus cried out again loudly, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." He also said, perhaps with relief and resignation as He laid down His life, "It is finished."

Redemption is finished. God has made the way. We cannot be undecided and we are without excuse. Choose life; choose the Savior. --L.C.

CEASEFIRE

It's over: So proclaimed the headlines of our local newspaper. The war in the Persian Gulf area is over, and the relief is evident everywhere. It is certainly cause for thanksgiving--not specifically that the allies won, but that the killing has stopped.

Jesus prophesied of "Wars and rumours of wars," and that "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, but the end is not yet." No doubt more wars will come. Also, it is certain that the Christian war is not over. One of our hymns by Horatius Bonar says:

No slacker grows the fight, No feebler is the foe Nor less the need of armor tried Of shield, and spear, and bow.

The casualties in the Persian Gulf have amounted to 80,000 to 100,000 slain of the Iraqis with less than 200 deaths of the allies. This, of course, does not include injuries. We cannot fathom the suffering indicated by these figures.

Only eternity will reveal the casualty list for our Christian struggles. Millions have been martyred throughout the ages of the Christian Church. However, these are not casualties but rather victories. The casualties are those who are not faithful. --L.C.

CHANGES

For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consummed. Mal. 3:6

Another year older, a new little daughter, a brother now absent from us here... changes: These are a few that took place in our life the past year. No doubt you can name a few or many that have come to you.

There are changes all about us. Changes in our age and size, changes in the weather and the seasons. Changes in the lives of those around us. Life couldn't go on without changes: Some we are glad for, like sunshine after rain, like rain after dry weather, like growing up when we were small, like the change from a life lived for self to a life lived for God:

But changes can be frustrating. They take acceptance and adjustment, such as a change in location when all is new and strange, or leaving the shelter of home and taking on the responsibility of making a home ourselves. Maybe we have lost a friend, a sister, a brother; or a catastrophe of fire or storm has ruined our home. There are disappointing changes like having one you love and trusted leave the way of truth. And there are fearful changes like war and changes in nations.

Sometimes life seems so uncertain and unstable that fear and discouragement begin to cover us. It is then we need the light of faith. Faith, that the Unchangeable is in control:

God is everlasting (Psalm 90:2). He will never change. In Him is everlasting strength (Isaiah 26:4), everlasting kindness (Isaiah 54:8), everlasting light (Isaiah 60:19), everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3), and everlasting life (John 3:16). His right-eousness and His salvation are forever (Isaiah 51:6,8). His Word endureth forever (I Peter 1:25), and His kingdom shall stand forever (Daniel 2:44).

God will always be there to listen when we pray. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

What stability: Having our faith in Him, we can surmount disappointments, frustration, and fear. We can have His peace and joy in our hearts always. We can look forward to a "bright" change sometime, the change to a life where no "dark" changes are known.

--Miriam Beery
Nappanee Ind.

O Holy Savior, Friend unseen, Since on Thine arm Thou bids't me lean, Help me throughout life's changing scene By faith to cling to Thee.

Blest with communion so divine, Take what Thou wilt, shall I repine When, as the branch is to the vine, My soul shall cling to Thee?

What though the world deceitful prove, And earthly friends and hopes remove; Patient, uncomplaining love, Still would I cling to Thee.

Though faith and hope are often tried, I ask not, need not, aught beside; So safe, so calm, so satisfied, The soul that clings to Thee.

--Charlotte Elliott Sel. by Miriam Beery

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiniess, without which no man shall see the Lord. So we see we need to follow peace in the world, if we hope to be accepted into the New Heaven. In this life we need to work out our salvation, as

none of the faults will be allowed to disturb the peace of Heaven. II Peter 3:14: "Wherefore beloved, seeing that we look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." We must not allow the temporal things of this life to disturb our love and peace. Satan has already been cast out of heaven. And Jesus came and shed His blood to prepare a way for us to accept and purify ourselves for a home in heaven when God will destroy Satan and this World.

ANGER

Ephesians 4:26: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Verse 27: "Neither give place to the devil." Anger is one of the most persistant temptations we have. Hatred can blind our eyes. If we have love for one another, our sight can be restored. The human race is very subject to anger and hatred, the cause of wars, divisions, mob violence, and much suffering. I John tells us if we are angry, we shut ourselves off from the light and walk in darkness. So let each of us forsake anger and walk together in the light of God's Word.

FIRST LOVE

In Revelation we find Jesus reproved the church at Ephesus, for leaving their "first love." When John the Baptist came, his message was "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Several times we read where thousands were convicted in their hearts and were baptized, and rejoiced to have their consciences cleared, believing in Christ and receiving the Light of Love. Surely this was their first love. If we can have that as our first and only love, and keep self and respect of persons out of our midst, we will do well.

--Ernest Wagner

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study topic this month was the Beatitudes. We read Matthew 5 around the room.

The first promise is to the poor in spirit. What does "poor" in this verse mean? It could mean humility. In Luke 6:20 it talks of the "poor" leaving out "in spirit." Those that are poor are not proud or haughty and therefore find it easier to be humble. There is a great blessing waiting for those that are poor in spirit: "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Who are they that mourn? We know of many things to mourn about. We should have sorrow for sin. And a time of mourning most of us know about is when a loved one dies. But here again those that mourn will receive the blessing of comfort.

Meekness, the third of the Beatitudes, is the opposite of selfishness. And it is a quality that is very necessary to those who inherit the earth.

As we studied this portion of Scripture, it was pointed out that each of these steps or each of these blessings leads to another, and altogether they would make a godly man.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (V. 6) We need to desire truth and hunger for things that are right. Everyone has a hunger inside him which natural food cannot satisfy. It must be filled with God's Word. We should have a craving or desire for God's Word like we do for food, if not more so. Brother Will told us he used to like green almonds and ate them till he was sick. Sometimes we hunger for things that are not good for us. We must hunger for the right things and those that will make us grow.

The merciful are those that are forgiving. This verse is much like the golden rule. We can't be merciful without Someone first being merciful to us. God is merciful to us. If we show no mercy, no mercy will be shown to us. If we are merciful like

God is merciful we will also be poor in spirit; we will mourn for sin and desire righteousness.

It seems from verse 8 that only those that are pure in heart are going to see God. To be pure in heart we must start with Jesus Christ. We play a key part in this. We must repent if our hearts have become unclean with sin.

All of these blessings can be ours. But we must keep the first part to obtain the last.

We ran out of time, so we decided to continue with the same topic at the next Bible Study.

--Peter Cover

COMMUNION NOTICE

We, the members of the Eastern congregation of the Old Brethren Church, have appointed a Lovefeast and Communion for April 27 and 28, the Lord willing, at our meeting house near Wakarusa, Indiana.

A hearty welcome is extended to all our members and friends to attend. --Melvin Coning

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Never alone in the darkness,
Always—His comforting hand,
Touching—so gently, with kindness.
Helping us understand.
Sharing our sorrow and sadness,
Giving us faith to believe
With us in triumph and gladness,
Always His blessings receive.
Graciously granting forgiveness
When, for our sins He atoned,
Walking beside us forever,
Leaving us never alone.

sel. by Susan R. Coning

??QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS??

QUESTION: Jesus said "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." (Matthew 7:6) Who are the dogs and the swine?

--Everett Oyler

ANSWER: We might also ask what is "that which is holy" and your "pearls"? The Savior here is speaking about our holy and precious things and wasting them on those who will not appreciate them but will rather destroy them and turn on us. Surely He is comparing wicked men to dogs and swine. not appreciate the things that are holy and precious to God's children. The words of warning and the offers of salvation from the Word could be safely and wisely given to this kind of man. But to try to teach an unconverted, ungodly man the precious psalms and beatitudes, the assurances and church pratices, would be a waste. To sing our beautiful hymns would be unwise in some situations for instance, in a bar full of carousing men. To send our children to amusements or theaters -- to place them under the influence of ungodly teachers baby sitters -- to allow our young folks to work at any public business where they would be subject to temtation or exploitation could well be casting our pearls before swine. The "cigar store" is just a step on the way to the bar--all the more dangerous because minors can go there.

But let us not use this verse as an excuse for failure to testify to unbelievers of our faith in Jesus. -L.C.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION: What does the Scripture Galations 5:24 mean? How do we go about crucifing the flesh? Does it happen at once and for all? See Gal. 5:13 and Gal. 5:19-21.

—A Sister in Christ

Historical

JOHN NAAS'S LETTER (--continued from last issue)

The 30th, the last mentioned man again lost a child and it was buried at sea that night. Then we saw the first little fish with wings flying over the sea for two or three rods.

On September 6th in the morning the First Mate spiked a dolphin, which are quite different from what they are pictured in Germany. This day we had much heat and little breeze.

The 7th, another big fish was caught by the crew. which is called shark. The crew took a hook, which was very large and strong and of about a finger's thickness: to this they fastened one and one-half pounds of bacon. When they saw the fish near the ship's side they threw the hook with the bacon to him, which he swallowed at once, and since the fish was very thick and five feet long and of great strength in his tail, as well in as out of the water, they drew him into the ship with a very hard pull. They drew back all the people, so that it should not hurt anybody, as he struck the deck so powerfully with his tail that if he should have hit any one against the legs, those would certainly have been struck in two. But after the ship's carpenter had cut off his tail with his axe after ten strokes, his strength was all gone. His mouth was so big that he might have swallowed a child of two years. The flesh the Captain ordered to be distributed to the delighted people...

The 13th a young woman, who had always been in poor health, died in childbirth and was buried at sea on the 14th with three children, two of them before and now the third the one just born, so that the husband has no one left now.

On the 16th in the morning about four o'clock a woman fifty years of age died; she had not been well during the entire trip and always repented leaving her native place. She was buried at sea that day.

And since the trip, owing to the many changes of wind, had lasted somewhat long and the greater number of the people had all consumed their provisions and their expectation was always set upon six weeks from land to land, they had gone on eating and drinking hard, from morning until late at night. Then at last they found it a great hardship to live on the ship's fare alone; thus the greater number so entirely lost courage that they never expected to get on land again.

On the 17th a small landbird, which they call the little yellow wag-tail in Germany, perched down several times on our ship, that the people could have a good look at him. This caused great rejoicing among them, that they clapped their hands with joy.

On the 18th a ship from Rhode Island came up to us. It had a cargo of sheep and other things, in order to sail to West Indies, which our Captain spoke to through a speaking tube; after they had made their arrangements they reefed their sails on both the ships, since there was but little running, anyhow and our Captain had a boat lowered into the water and rowed with four seamen to their ship. When they had drunk the welcome together, he returned and brought with him half a bag of apples, a goose, a duck, and two chickens and distributed the beautiful apples at once among the people. caused great rejoicing to get such beautiful American apples on the high sea, and those which were still left over he threw among the people to grapple for them, and they fell in heaps over one another for the beautiful apples.

On the 19th, a strange looking fish came upon the ship. It was shaped like a large round table and had a mouth like two little shallow baskets. The same evening a large number of big fish came from the north towards our ship and when they had reached the ship they shot down into the deep, in front, behind and under the ship, so that one could

not see them any more on the other side of the ship.

On the 20th again a young married woman died and was buried at sea the same night, and on this evening again came a large number of countless big fish from the north which one could see from high above the water and which did just like the former, that one could not see them on the other side of the ship. Thereupon we had a very heavy fall of rain so that some people caught half kegs of water, only from the sails and from the Captain's cabin. This was followed by a powerful windstorm from the northwest. The sea rose up so high, that when one looked into it, it was just as if one were sailing among high mountains all covered with snow; one mountain-wave rose over the other and over the ship so that the Captain and First Mate and Cook were struck by a wave that they kept not a dry thread on them; and so much water poured into the ship that many people's beds, which were near to the holes were quite filled with water. The holes were hastily boarded up, the rud- der bound fast, and the ship was, with a very lowly-reefed sail set sideways to the wind, so that it should not roll so hard on both sides. The storm lasted the entire night with great violence, so that without any fear one could well see that it was not alone the seaworthiness of the ship that it could weather such powerful blows, but that it was preserved in the Almighty hand of the Lord, in order to make known to man His might. To Him be above all and for all the glory, Amen.

Not a human being remained on deck, but one sailor who was tied fast in order to watch by the rudder; all the rest, the Captain, the mates, the seamen crawled into their beds in their wet clothes,
and the ship lay sideways to the wind always on its
side so that it drew water all the time, which however, poured out again. At midnight the waves
struck so hard against the portholes aft, that two
boards sprang away from the windows where part of
the people lay in sleep and slumber, and the water

rushed in through the window, as big as it was, and straight into the beds, which caused a great terror to those who lay near the window. The water took away a board together with the rope; we all sprang up because the friends who lay near the window had not tied the board fast enough and the misfortune might have become a very great one. We took a woolbag, which was handy, and stopped the window up and the other one with the board, that was made fast again.

The ship's carpenter the next morning made a new window board. The storm also abated a little, and thus the anxiety of the people grew a little less, and towards two o'clock in the afternoon it cleared, the wind ceased, and the portholes in the ship were opened, and it was beautifully calm weather. Then the Captain quickly ordered a kettle of rice to be boiled, in order that the people might get something warm to eat that day and night for their supper.

The 22nd at noon the ship lay as still as a house; then the people dried their clothes again. A good breeze sprang up at dinner time and blew all night, so stiff and so steady that one did not know in the ship that was moving and yet made two miles and a half in one hour. At midnight the first sounding was made, 150 rods deep, and no bottom found.

23rd at nine o'clock another sounding was made and at 55 rods ground was struck, at eleven o'clock at 35 rod; shortly after, 20 rods; and yet we did not see any land, but were nearing the river (Delaware). Then the people became very joyful on of good breeze and account the the ground being found. But the Captain did not trust himself to reach the river by daylight; since one could not see any land even, and at four o'clock in good wind he reefed the sails, and had the rudder tied fast, because there are many sandbanks in front and inside of the river. (To be continued)

Taken from A HISTORY OF THE BRETHREN by Martin Grove Brumbaugh.

YOUTH PAGE

THE CHRISTIAN'S FIGHT

I will not fear the devil
Nor anything he throws,
For all of him is evil
As every child of God knows

He can never harm me
As long as I do rest
Within my Master's loving arms
Where I will e'er be blest.

Doubts and fears may rise
To those who fear the Lord,
But ever do be wise,
And conquer with the Sword.

Temptations may come and go,
And winds of trouble roll,
But this one thing I know:
We are safe within His fold.

So let us all be faithful
To what we know is right;
Heaven is our eternal goal
When we have won the fight.
--Peter D. Cover

I LOVE HIM MORE EACH DAY
He loved me when nobody cared;
His mercy with me He shared.
He gave me all He could give.
Yes, He died that I might live:

And you ask me how much I love Him. Well, its more than words can say. I love Him with each passing moment. I love Him more each day:

--Martha Wagner Gettysburg, Ohio

CHILDREN'S PAGE: KINDNESS PAYS

Peter was a Mennonite preacher living in a village in Switzerland with his wife. All Christians were being persecuted. People in the village couldn't understand why Peter and his friends did not go to war. They had been threatened with death, but they would reply, "We would rather die the bitterest death than to disobey God." One night three young men set out to do evil to this "Peace Preacher." When they arrived at the house, one man said, "Now we will see what kind of man he is. Maybe he won't be so loving after our visit tonight." The roof was made of big leaves called thatch. The men quickly lifted themselves on to the roof, and started throwing the thatch to the ground.

Peter awoke. He could hear strange noises on the roof. Quietly he went outside. He could see the men busy at work destroying his thatch. Peter asked God for help to do the right thing to these men. Peter told his wife to prepare a meal for the workers. When the meal was ready, Peter went outside and called, "You have worked long and hard. Surely you are hungry. Come in and eat with us." Slowly they came into the house and sat down at the table. Peter bowed his head and prayed earnestly and lovingly for his guests and his family. When prayer was over, the men raised their heads in shame. They could hardly eat. Suddenly they went back outside and onto the roof. This time they were putting the thatch back on instead of taking it off.

Jesus wants us to learn the important lesson to, "Love our enemies and do good to them that hate us."

--Everett Oyler

Adapted from Coals of Fire by Elizabeth Bauman

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

THEREFORE GIVE US LOVE

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
Taught by Thee we covet most,
Of Thy gifts at Pentecost,
Holy, heavenly love.
Love is kind, and suffers long;
Love is meek and thinks no wrong;
Love than death itself more strong;
Therefore give us love.

Faith and hope and love we see,
Joining hand and hand, agree;
But the greatest of the three,
And the best, is love.
Faith will vanish into sight;
Hope be emptied in delight;
Love in heaven will shine more bright;
Therefore give us love.

From the overshadowing
Of Thy gold and silver wing,
Shed on us who to Thee sing,
Holy, heavenly love.
Prophecy will fade away,
Melting in the light of day;
Love will ever with us stay;
Therefore give us love.
--Christopher Wordsworth

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AFTER CALVARY

On March 29,1991, there was attention given to an event that happened centuries ago. The calendar calls that day "Good Friday." Perhaps, though, "Bad Friday" would be a better name, for on that day in approximately the year A.D. 29, the Jews rejected their Messiah and crucified Him. Though it was determined "from the foundation of the world," foreknown of God, and resulted in salvation for any and all who would believe, still the responsibility of the nation and of men in general was tremendous. What would God do? What would be the result of such uncaring thanklessness?

For the Jewish people, the result was the loss of their favored position with God. Jesus told the "Chief priests and elders of the people" (Matthew 21:23-46) after the parable of the vineyard, "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." (v.43) This nation to which the kingdom is given is the holy nation of redeemed people. (See Romans 10:19 and I Peter 2:9.) Jesus' words in this parable of the slaying of the heir to the vineyard are so plain that it would be difficult to misunderstand or misapply them.

The destruction of Jerusalem seems to be another result of the rejection of the Saviour. What the people of that city endured is gruesome The Roman general Titus eventually destroyed the city and burned the temple. Josephus records, "...Yet hath not its great antiquity, nor its vast riches, nor the diffusion of its nation over all the habitable earth, nor the greatness of veneration paid to it on a religious account, been sufficient to preserve it from being destroyed." (Page 588, Josephus, Kregel Publications)

Concerning the temple and the holy place there, the account says (Mark 15:38), "And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom" when Jesus died. This no doubt signified the end of the old priesthood and the opening of the way into the holiest place in heaven where Jesus entered with His own blood as the Jewish high priest had done with animal blood in the earthly temple. (See Hebrews 9) So another result of that awful day was the redemption Jesus accomplished for us in which our sins are washed away by His own blood and we poor mortal creatures are made kings and priests unto God.

For Jesus' followers, the result of Calvary and His succeeding resurrection and ascension was Pentecost. The Church was begun. The disciples were given power and went forth to preach the Word with great boldness and zeal. Many souls were saved and added to the Church. The rejection of the Saviour became victory and the ushering in of God's plan for bringing many souls to glory.

Seeing these results, though so briefly touched upon, gives us a view of the matchless power and wisdom of God. These events were no surprises to Him, but contributed perfectly to His plan to rescue man from the fall.

So what are the results of Calvary in our lives? Is the event so far away in distance and time as to be meaningless in our modern and independent, pleasure-seeking society? The world is still crucifing Jesus and will always reject Him. But for all who will repent, and believe, and obey Him, God has new life and peace.

Springtime symbolizes this new life in Christ. The old wintertime releases her grip on the earth, and new plant life springs up in vigor and beauty. The cows are turned into new pasture. The birds return and build their nests. Joy of nature is all around us. But this is only a symbol of what can happen in our hearts when "old things are passed away; behold all thing are become new."

Praise God for forgiveness and peace: All this comes because Jesus died and rose again and lives forever to be our Saviour. --L.C.

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

MAKING DECISIONS

Psalm 139:23: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Luke 22:31,32: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." So these Scriptures should prepare us for the trials we face in this life.

PEACE

Peace cannot be forced. Proverbs 27:22: "Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat, with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him." Jesus told Pilate "...If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight..." So we cannot join in with the covetous nations of this world, and fight.

HOLY GHOST BAPTISM

Matthew 3:11-12: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentence: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." So we see the Lord will burn out the dross that none is carried over

into the new Kingdom. It appears the water cleansing in the flood was not enough to remove evil. It requires the cleansing of each individual. Hebrews 12:7: "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons..."

OUR PRESENT TIME

Genesis 11:6: "And the Lord said, Behold the people is one and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do." We are living in a time when, by the use of electricity, men have succeeded in bringing the world together, as one nation by interpretation of all language to attain to the same state as they were when building the tower of Babel, and are following their imaginations. I believe this explains why the world powers are called beasts, and not called by certain nations.

-Ernest Wagner

-Ernest Wagner Modesto, California

BIBLE STUDY

We have been studying the Sermon on the Mount for Bible Study here lately. We ended with verse eight in Matthew 5 but we had some good discussion on it this time also.

Verse eight talks of the pure in heart. The pure in heart are those that are sincere and are living a life with a free conscience. We don't have pure hearts naturally. God makes pure hearts if we want Him to, and He will help us keep them pure. Proverbs 4:23 tells us that a pure heart leads to a pure life. This blessing also has an interesting and captivating promise. We shall see God and in new bodies. What a glorious state those with pure hearts have to look forward to:

The peacemaker talked of in verse nine is more than just a pacifist. We have seen and heard that

pacifists are far from peaceful at times. A peacemaker is willing to intervene, maybe at his own
expense, willing to suffer wrong to see peace.
Peacemakers are not just peace-watchers. We must
be witnesses to this sinful world not only by
having peace among ourselves but also to work for
peace between others. The ultimate Peacemaker is
Christ Jesus. He made peace between God and man
and wants peace to rule in our hearts. This
promise tells us that we will not only see God but,
closer yet, we will be His children.

Verse ten and eleven both speak of persecution. We hardly know what this is as far as enduring it in the body. But we are told that all that will live godly, will suffer persecution. (II Timothy 3:12) This would show that there is a persecution that would not be in bodily form. Verses to look up on this subject are I Peter 4:13 and Acts 7:52-60. Job suffered persecution as did Jeremiah and many of the prophets to Israel. According to tradition Isaiah was "sawn assunder." Many had to give their lives in both the Old and New Testaments. many have Throughout the history of the Church, suffered martydom for the Lord. "Rejoice and be glad: for great is your reward exceeding glad: for heaven..." (Verse 12)

Verse thirteen tells us that we are to season the earth with the goodness we have been given from above. Salt flavors and preserves food, and salt is always salty. But salt can also become diluted till it is not good. May we ever guard the salt we have and keep it from being diluted in sin.

Verses fourteen through sixteen show us what kind of witnesses we should be. A light on a dark night shines brightly. The light that we have in ourselves is the good works we have been given. They come from God and they are to glorify Him.

--Peter Cover

To know God is the highest education we can have.

—Selected

??QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS??

QUESTION: What does the Scripture, Galatians 5:24, mean? How do we go about crucifying the flesh? Does it happen at once and for all? See Gal. 5:13 and Gal. 5:19-21.

-- A Sister in Christ

ANSWER: Galatians 5:24 is an absolute statement that the true Christian has rejected the works, lusts, and manifestations of the flesh. This dying to sin, "crucifying the flesh," is a deciding factor in Christian conversion. This takes place in the process of faith, repentance, and baptism. It is the pivotal point in the Christian's life. The person from this time forward no longer serves sin but loves and serves the Lord. Read Romans 6.

-- Joseph Wagner

ANSWER:

Dear Sister in Christ,

The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit are attitudes that control outward behavior and speech. So if we want to have proper godly conduct, we go deeper than outward behavior. We must crucify attitudes and desires of the flesh mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21. Colossians 3:5 says, "Mortify (destroy the strength, vitality, or functioning of, subdue, or deaden) therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleaness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." The things mentioned in these two Scriptures describe the ugliness of the selfish nature of man and must be crucified before the fruit of the Spirit can have free course in our lives.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." When Jesus took up the cross He was crucified on, it was with the realization that He was giving up all that was dear to self and was ready to pour out His life even unto death, for the sake of the world, and the will of God. This is the cross we must bear, and it must be daily.

Man will deny himself of many comforts and conveniences before he will deny himself of self.

Crucifixion is a slow, painful death--yes, a life-long work. Apostle Paul says, "I die daily." Just the same, a man that is crucified is considered a dead man. Romans 6:11 says, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Paul says in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, (self) but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God..."

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Paul says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:3,4)

If we live these Scriptures "by the faith of the Son of God," then self will be denied and the fleshly desires crucified. --Thomas Royer

ANSWER: To crucify the flesh is to not allow our sinful inclinations to work. Colossians 3:5 says to mortify...(the sinful deeds of the flesh) which means to control by self-denial. Galatians 5:16-18 reveals that it is a constant, on-going battle in this life; but if we fill our lives with the fruit of the Spirit, we will not lose our control over the flesh.

--Meredith Cable

ANSWER: We believe the apostle Paul answers this question in various Scriptures. Romans 7:24-25: "Oh wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord..." Romans 8:13: "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 6:17-18: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Galatians 5:16: "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Again we believe the apostle Paul has the answer for the second question, "Does it happen once and for all?" Philipians 3:8-14: "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend, that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do. forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God Christ Jesus." We believe this question is a concern of all true believers.

> In Christian Love, Kenneth Martin

Historical

JOHN NAAS LETTER (CONTINUED)

Early in the morning all sails were set again, and we headed for the river although the breeze was not very favorable, and there was a heavy fog. Then again they made soundings and found 15 rods, and an hour later 7 rods. At twelve o'clock we saw the land with great rejoicing. Towards half past four we neared the river, for one is still six hours away from it when one gets in sight of it. while, I and the Captain caught sight of three boats sailng towards us; then the Captain cried, "These are the pilots or steersmen." One could hardly see them among the waves. Then he had all the sails set and was very glad that the pilots came to meet him. The first one who came he did not accept, but when the second came, whom he knew, he took him into the ship at once, intending to sail into the river that same night; however, when we were on both sides against the land just in front of the river, suddenly from the southwest a storm broke loose such as we had never had yet. Then all had to help reef the sail, and the anchor was thrown out for the first time. There we lay fast, and the water had no longer such great power because it had not more then 7 rods of depth. we lay at anchor all night and the storm soon ceased.

The 25th, early in the morning, we weighed anchor, set sail, and tacked into the river. We saw there on both sides with so much joy as can easily be imagined, the land and the beautiful trees near the shore just as if they had been planted there.

On the 26th the before mentioned last born baby died and was buried in the river. That same day during the night we sailed into the narrows of the river, which is indeed very delightful to see, as wide as the Rhine where it is the widest, and on

both banks are the most beautiful woods and groves and here and there houses stand on the banks which have fish nets hanging to dry in front of them.

The following day, the 27th, we passed New Castle with little breeze and in a very dense fog. town lies forty miles distant from Philadelphia. Since we had very little wind we had to sail mostly with the tide or with the current of the water. therefore we sailed during the 28th. and on afternoon the 29th we of arrived safely in Philadelphia.

We were met by brethren and sisters in small boats who brought us fine bread, apples, peaches and other refreshments of the body, for which we gave thanks to the Highest publicly on the ship near the city, with singing and ringing shouts of delight. With many tears we praised and glorified the Lord for having preserved us in his Father's hand, and having carried us as on the wings of the eagle so that we all could meet again in love on this side of Eternity. See, dear children, brethren and friends, this is in short the description of our journey across the very big sea.

If I were to relate everything how things went with the people on the ship, there could be much more to write, and it grieves my heart, when I remember that I so often told them when on the ship, I did not think that all the unclean spirits of Hell there could be worse going on with cursing, swearing, blaspheming and beating (fighting), with over eating and drinking, quarreling day and night, during storm and weather, that the Captain often said he had taken many people over to this country already but had all his days never seen anything like this.

He thought they must have been possessed by the demons (devils). Therefore they made such a good picture of Hell, although to us they were all very kind, friendly and helpful and they held us all in great fear. The Captain often threatened he would order some of them to be bound to the mast and to be

whipped by his sailors from head to foot; still they remained bad.

Now I will report some more experiences in regard to the great danger and hardships of the journey to Pennsylvania.

The danger of this journey is this: if God should be against one and were willing to work His revenge and justice against us, no one, of course, could escape from Him. as little as on land. danger would be if one went in an old bad ship upon the big sea, or with a ship master who was a tyrant or ignorant of sailing. But, if the Lord is not against us, which must first be settled, and one has a good ship and good sailors then the danger is not half so great as one imagines it. The Lord sustains Earth and Sea and one in and on the other, therefore also the vessels upon the sea and those who have gone up on high or down into the deep, and eternal Jehovah has rescued them, they all shall come to Him and shall praise the name of the Lord who does great wonders to the children of men.

The hardships, however, of this journey consist of many kinds and things; but for myself I have not to say of many, on the contrary of but few hardships on this trip; but others have seen and experienced a great deal, especially firstly when people start on this trip who are not obliged to enter upon so great a journey.

Secondly, when people start this enterprise without any reason, and sufficient deliberation and for the sake of material purposes.

Thirdly, when people break up to move, and especially married people, when they are not fully agreeing with one another to begin such a long journey.

These three things are the main reasons of all difficulties on the long journey, for I can say with full truth that on six or seven ocean vessels I have heard of few people who did not repent their journey, although according to the declaration of the greatest number only extreme necessity had

driven them to it. Although there were a good number of educated people among them, yet it was with them too, on account of the sad decline in their business affairs by the hard oppression of government, that caused them to leave or to become poor, and as poor people they could no longer help themselves from getting into debt and becoming beggars. Nevertheless they so much regretted having started on this journey that some became sick of it and were so furious that often they did not know what they were doing. Neighbors accused one another. Husband, wife, children fought bitterly. Instead of helping one another, they only added to the burden of each and made it every hour more unendurable. Seeing that such people are obliged to be pent up together for thirteen, fourteen or fifteen weeks, what an amount of trouble must follow with such natures! Then one can never do what one wants on a ship. Then there are some who will consume all the food thay have taken with them while the ship's fare is still good; this they will throw into water. But later on when the ship's fare has long been lying in the salt, the water grows foul smelling, so that rice, barley, pease, and such can no longer be boiled soft in it, then the people have devoured and drunk everything they had and then necessity compels them to begin with the poorer stuff and they will find that very hard; and because the people live so closely together some will then begin to steal whatever they can get, especially things to eat and drink. Then there are such quantities of lice on the people, that many persons are compelled to louse for a whole day at a time, and if one does not do this very frequently they might devour one. This was a very great hardship for the people and for me as well.

Now that we have safely arrived in this land and have been met by our own people in great love and friendship all the rest has been forgotten in a moment (so to speak), for the sake of great joy that we had in one another. This hardship has last-

ed about nineteen weeks; then it was over, wherefore be all the glory to the Highest: Amen, yea; Amen:...

I will make an end of this and wish patience to whomsoever reads this. God be with you all. Amen.
--John Naas.

Condensed from A HISTORYOF THE BRETHREN by Martin Grove Brumbaugh.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Old Brethren Church will be held, the Lord willing, on May 17, 18, and 19 at the Salida, California, meeting house. Friday will be council day; on Saturday and Sunday (Penecost), there will be public preaching; and on Saturday evening, the Communion service. A hearty invitation and welcome is extended to all our members and friends to attend.

-- Joseph L. Cover

BAPTISMS

We of the Salida Congregation were all happy and rejoiced with the angels when Sam Cover chose to follow the Master and received Christian baptism on Sunday, April 14. May he be faithful and helpful in God's kingdom. --Joseph L. Cover

Again we, the members of the Wakarusa Congregation, rejoiced that souls are still responding to the call of the Master. Emily Brubaker received Christian baptism upon confession of her faith in Christ, May 5. May she be true to Jesus and enjoy the blessing of salvation forever.

--Melvin Coning

BIRTH

ROYER -- A daughter, Janita Ruth, born April 11 to David and Elva Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

FOR YOUTH

Hmmm...

You ask, "How you doing?" and I say, "Just fine."
Yet is it true of this heart of mine?
Outwardly I may look O.K.
But under my skin, is it also this way?

Sunday at meeting, with Bible in hand I gather with part of the faithful band. Bible in hand, yes it's a good start, But is that pure Word down deep in my heart?

I sing Zion's songs, messages true; Truly my praise is the Saviour's due. Now's a good time to feel heaven below, Or else do I think, we're singing too slow?

"Let us pray," comes the call, and down I go, My knees on the floor, my head bowed low, A time to give thanks, repent and confess-- Or fret about so and so's lengthiness?

Dear Lord, You know me inside and out;
My problems most people know nothing about;
Forgive me, renew me, grant me a new start.
But most of all, Lord, come live in my heart.
--Lloyd Wagner
Modesto, California

True worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by;
For whatever men say in their blindness,
In spite of the fancies of youth,
There's nothing so kingly as kindness
And nothing so royal as truth.
—Alice Cary

CHILDREN'S PAGE SPRING IS HERE

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

Many years ago God had promised that after every winter there would be a spring when everything would come back to life. Sometimes, before the snow is off the ground, we see flowers blooming. We all feel better when we can be outside and work in the earth. Nice warm weather also brings responsibilities to us. The farmers need to keep busy to plant their crops. Mother is busy planting the garden. I hope you children are also helping. When you learn to work at a young age, you will be happier. The Bible says that if a man does not work, he shouldn't eat. We all like to eat, so we need to be willing to work where we can.

Remember the story of the little red hen? No one wanted to help plant the seed, harvest the wheat, grind the flour, make the dough, or bake the bread. When the bread was ready to eat, everyone wanted to help. The little red hen said, "No: You wouldn't help with the work, so you can't eat any." Even though this is a make-believe story, it has a good Biblical teaching. Children, let's help with the work; then when the bread is ready to eat we can all enjoy it.

-Everett Oyler Nappanee, Indiana

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." / Peter 2:11

THE ROCK THAT IS HIGHER THAN I (PSALM 61:2)

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, The rock that is steadfast and sure, A stumbling block and a rock of offense To all that is wrong and impure.

Lead me to the rock with its crystal stream, A rock in a dry, thirsty land, Where all who thirst may be satisfied. Where the stream of life has no end.

Lead me to the rock where the church of God Forever will stand secure; Though the tempests rage and the rain beats down, There the church will forever endure.

Lead me to the rock where my soul may rest, A calm in the midst of a storm, Where the troubles of earth will never reach, Where nothing will ever alarm.

Lead me to the rock when the end time comes, To the cleft where my soul may hide While the river of Jordan onward rolls, Where my soul may forever abide.

--Annie Baker

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WAITING

"Whenever I am in town, I have to wait at nearly every place I go." So proclaimed my wife after a frustrating day of shopping and business. I proved it too, when I made an appointment to have the brakes fixed on our van. It was to take "about an hour." But the job had some complications. The parts had to be picked up. And I waited for nearly three hours.

Waiting strains the Christian virtue of patience. Many times waiting can be avoided. To be sure, it is often a waste of time, and time is valuable. But when it cannot be avoided, then we need to exhibit that useful Christian fruit, longsuffering or patience.

I pity those elderly ones who are in states of helplessness. Their waiting (and patience) makes mine look easy. I can read or walk or shop or pass time in conversation with others. Many elderly ones can do none of these things. The hymn says:

Only waiting till the shadows
Are a little longer grown;
Only waiting till the glimmer
Of the day's last beam is flown...

Those who are waiting in this way need company. It makes the waiting time go quickly when we can spend it with loved ones. Those also who must wait through a crisis—surgery or extreme illness—in their family, appreciate friendship then. How sensitive are we to the needs of one another?

If we think we have too much waiting to do, what do we think about God's patience with us? Peter recorded that "...the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing..." God has exercised patience with His people through centuries of man's disobedience. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, and we can believe He was

tempted in this area, too. He was here as a man over thirty years, waiting for the time to come when He would accomplish the atonement for sin and could return to glory. Now we are to "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psalm 27:14)

Our culture does not teach us to wait patiently. It is said about Americans, "They hurry up and run so they can relax." In some other countries, the pace is more leisurely; appointments are not so precise. It is no wonder that heart attacks, stress, and nervousness plague our society.

Some people are skilled at making every move count. They fill spare minutes with some kind of activity. In fact, there are never enough minutes. Time will soon run out. Paul writes, "The time is short." John tells us, "My little children, it is the last time." James says, "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." Peter writes, "But the end of all things is at hand..." Jesus said, "In your patience possess ye your souls."

There are good things we can do as we wait. (I write, not from victorious experiences, but from what I know would be good for me.) One can pray. We sometimes run out of time when we pray. But here is time on our hands. God hears when our hearts reach to Him, even if we are not on our knees.

Some have the forethought to take reading material. Donating blood usually means a long wait. We see some reading their books, apparently oblivious to all the commotion around them.

Those who enjoy conversation can give a useful testimony as they show their appreciation for God's goodness. Here is a good time to guard against our natural tendency to complain about the weather!

Young people need patience as they grow to maturity. I remember thinking that the day would never come when I would be a man. Our teachers would urge us to enjoy the freedom of youth while we had it. But young people seldom see it that way.

To them the adult state is the ideal. Marriage is something to work toward. But there is something greater than marriage. That is maturity in the Christian sense. The attainment of this maturity does not happen over night. It takes patient striving. But the rewards of maturity are victory in every field--again victory in the Christian sense. It means close communion with the Savior. And if God grants privileges of this life--like marriage-maturity is the essential preparation for it. When we "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," we can be sure that the things of earth will be in their proper perspective in our esteem.

A number of our younger couples are planning to build homes or establish farms. This takes hard work and a special amount of patience to obtain permits, zoning, or to repair buildings. We want this all to happen in good time. But usually processes drag on and on, and our patience wears thin.

Work to do is a special blessing we should be glad for. The unemployed have a lot of waiting to do. People in impoverished lands are pictured sitting by the hour just waiting for something to happen. May we be thankful for the useful activity in our lives. And when we do have to wait, may we do it with patience and conduct ourselves as Christians, for many are watching God's people.

--L.C.

COMMON, COMMUNING, COMMUNICATIONS

"Oh, the comfort—the inexpressible comfort—Of feeling safe with a person,
Having neither to weigh thoughts
Nor measure words—but pouring them
All right out—just as they are—
Chaff and grain together—
Certain that a faithful hand will
Take and sift them—
Keep what is worth keeping—

And with the breath of kindness Blow the rest away."

--Dinah Maria Mulock Craik, "Friendship"

This little poem expresses the value of being open with one another, of being able to pour out our hearts, to bare our souls to our brother. To the listener it expresses the value of doing just that—listening—putting all our energies into understanding this brother, catching every word, feeling his emotion, seeing his vision. And then, lovingly and gently we counsel him, dispelling the "chaff."

Have you ever tried to speak to someone that was not really listening, that's listening with half an ear, just impatiently waiting for you to finish so that he can say his more important speech? Or, have you ever tried to speak with someone with a high education and high-classed living? You just can't communicate, in the full sense of the word. (We CAN with the help of the Spirit.)

We find that communicate, commune, and common all have similar origins and are rather closely related. They all speak of sharing, imparting, making common.

The Apostle Paul gives us some valuable examples and insights on this subject. First, an example of communicating to someone in a position of leadership with existing opinions (educated): "And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, BUT PRIV-ATELY to them which were of REPUTATION, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain." (Gal 2:2) First, notice that he had a revelation -- an uncovering, something was divinely revealed to him -- so he was well prepared. Next, he preaches to them of reputation PRIVATELY, a one-on-one basis. Why did he do this? Surely it was because he knew he would have a greater concentration to those directing him to. He wanted successful a

mission, and he did everything he knew of to have a complete communication with these people.

We find another insight in Gal. 6:6: "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." Here is a mission to teachers who, with their good reputation and perhaps large audience, could proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to more people. A teacher can't teach unless he has knowledge of his subject, and who would be a better teacher than the seasoned teacher, full of experience and valuable lessons? necessary element of communication is knowledge of His Word (wisdom), but also being fully and completely in His Holy Spirit. In our first example, we see Paul was completely in touch with God; he had a complete communication with his Lord. is the only way God can reveal anything to us: must be able to hear His voice that speaks to through His Spirit. In this way we CAN have the inspiration, the power, the purpose, and knowledge to go forward.

Communication is for everyone, a necessary skill to learn. "By him (Jesus) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the FRUIT OF OUR LIPS giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to COMMUNICATE forget not: with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Heb. To praise God and give Him thanks is one 13:15,16) purpose of communication. I like that term, "the sacrifice of praise." How can praise be a sacrifice? In Romans 12 we read that our bodies are a "living sacrifice." Praise is certainly a result of being "acceptable unto God;" acceptance which we obtain through consecration and sacrifice to God. don't think praising God seems like a sacrifice to the one who knows Him. It is a sacrifice through denying our selfishness; we could say that we praise Take note that God instead of exalting ourselves. this praise is to be offered CONTINUALLY, which would encompass every aspect of our lives. good and communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Don't forget this: Communication is a REQUIREMENT, an essential item for brethren.

We find another aspect of communication in Eph. 5:19. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." The one who knows God is filled with the Spirit, which causes an overpowering joy that is best expressed through singing. When we sing, we are expressing ourselves to one another and to the Lord. See also Col. 3:16, Mt. 26:30, Acts 16:25, Heb. 2:12, Rev. 14:3.

Another aspect of communication is found in III John 9-11. This is a sad account of a brother who puffed himself up, who had a high regard for himself, who sought the preeminence. The key words can be found in v. 10: "...prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith..." This man was unwilling to listen, and notice what class this placed him in: "Beloved, follow not that which is evil..." (v. 11)

We're all familiar with the verse in Malachi 3:16, "Then they that feared the Lord spake OFTEN one to another..." Now notice what the Lord thought of this: "and the Lord hearkened (attended to them), and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Timothy was instructed that they be "willing to communicate." (I Ti. 6:18) The Phillippians were commended for their communication: "Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction." (Phm. 4:14) Love concern compell communication. and Knowledge, commonness, joy, anger, and sorrow (Lk. 24:17 [be sure to look this up and read vv. 13-35]) all compell communication. Philemon gives us an example that faith compells communication: "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels (hearts or

inward parts) of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother." (Phm. 6,7) These "saints" were experiencing a great common union through loving communication by the efforts of a brother willing to express his great faith. He was unable to resist because his faith was so great and he had sacrificed his selfishness to God. What an example for us:

Another aspect of communication is found in Mt. 5:37: "But let your communication be, Yea, Yea; Nay, Nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." He is simply saying to tell the truth. If you are not sure something is true, then don't say it. We might say that gossip "cometh of evil," for more times than not it turns out to be twisted into untruth. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Eph. 4:29)

Let's look at another apostle. John in his first epistle lovingly intreats, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not." (2:1) His love and concern was so great that it compelled him to write: This is another important aspect of communication. "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake." (2:12) Wouldn't it have been easy for John to think, "They know that; I don't need to tell them:" "... I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." (2:13,14) All of these verses (and there are more) express John's concern, love, and joy and give them encouragement. If these were written wouldn't they give you great encouragement? Wouldn't they comfort you? Writing this cost John a little bit of time, but I'm sure it was well worth it. "I have not written unto you because ye know

not the truth, but because ye know it... (2:21)

Now, what excuse do we have for not writing?

There seems to be a certain art to communication. Some are good at writing. Some are good at listening. Some are good at speaking. I believe each of these can be learned and should be learned by everyone. We've seen how essential it is. Paul had a sincere desire "...that I may open my mouth BOLDLY..." (Eph. 6:19); and "...that therein I may speak BOLDLY, as I ought to speak."(v.20) We could change that to "write BOLDLY, as I ought to write": Paul knew his source of power; simply by relying on the Holy Spirit he found that "...utterance may be given unto me..."(v.19) Let's take this invaluable example so that our mouths, fingers, and ears may be useful, fruitful tools for the enhancement of His Kingdom. It takes BOLDNESS:

How vital communication is: How vital listening Speaking and listening are equally important. We should be talkers as well as listeners, writers as well as readers! We can learn a lot from listening, and we can give a brother or sister enormous support and comfort simply by listening. Let's attend to these examples and apply them to our lives daily. We can experience the deep, total, common, communing communications that all Christians should have. Just one more exhortation from Paul: "And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in DEMON-STRATION of the SPIRIT and of POWER: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men. but in the POWER of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect:...we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom ... "(ICor. 2:3-7) "Bless the Lord, ye his angels(brethren), that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening (attending) unto the voice of his word." (Ps. 103:20)

--Ron Cable Goshen, Indiana

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS A Precious Promise

Hebrews 11:39,40: "And these all having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." So we see how highly favored we are to have the record of the faithful ones that have gone before us, to reveal all the trials and temptations we may face in this life, to help us overcome.

Repentance

The message Jesus brought was "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." God has no pleasure in destroying wicked people, but He wants them to turn from their evil ways and come back to serve and obey Him. We have a very good example in the book of Jonah. God created us for His pleasure and wants to save us if possible, but He needs to free us from sin.

Correction

Hebrews 12:6: "For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Revelation 3:19: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Ecclesiastes 4:13: "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, that will no more be admonished." So we see we never reach a state that we need no correction or help in this life.

Good and Evil

Matthew 10:34: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." (V. 36) "And a man's foes shall be they of

his own household." There can be no compromise between good and evil. I Thessalonians 3:3: "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto." II Corinthians 4:17: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Revelation 7:14: "...These are they which came out of great tribulation; and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." We hope to live with this great company when we leave this life.

Love

God created man with the desire to love and be loved, to feel that love for God, for his wife, for children, for his Church, and fellow men, but Satan tempted them to follow vanity and desire to satisfy self. So we have a need to deny all selfish desires and follow the pure desire we were intended to be governed by.

--Ernest Wagner Modesto, California

PARADOX

If the Good God were suddenly
To make a solitary Blind to see,
We would stand wondering all
And call it miracle;
But that He gives with lavish hand
Sight to a million souls we stand
And say, with little awe,
He but fulfils a natural law.

Huw Menai

OBITUARY

ISAAC BAKER, the oldest child of Jesse and Sophia (Smith) Baker, was born June 18,1897, near Maple, in Vaughan Township, Ontario, Canada. He passed away peacefully at Parkview Home on May 25,1991, in his 94th year.

On September 26, 1928, he was married to Annie Reesor who passed away February 6, 1963.

He is survived by one son; Alvin Baker of Bluevale; 3 daughters: Mary--Mrs. Norman Drudge of Markham; Ruth--Mrs. Lorne Reesor of Maple; Eva--Mrs. Herb Diller of Markham; 17 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are one sister, Bertie, and one brother, Amos, both of Maple. His brother Abraham predeceased him in 1960.

In 1940, Isaac and Annie were baptized into the Old Brethren Church and remained faithful until the Lord called them Home. Isaac had enjoyed unusually good health for over 90 years.

Isaac, a saddler, operated his own harness-making business for most of his life. His tidy shop smelled of leather, and his meticulous workmanship reached into many nations of the world. Neighbors would stop in for an emergency repair or for someone to talk to.

Funeral services were held May 28 in the Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church, Gormley, Ontario, with Pastor Marlin Ressler opening. Words of hope and comfort were given by Elder Kenneth Martin, using Psalm 90 and Hebrews 9:27.

The body was laid to rest with that of his wife and ancestors at the Baker Cober Cemetery near Maple, Ontario.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain... --Revelation 21:4

Historical

Peter Becker, 1687-1758

To Peter Becker, more than to any other person, is the credit due for the successful organization of the Church of the Brethren in America.

He was born at Delheim, Germany. Like Alexander Mack, he was raised a Reformed. He joined the Brethren at Creyfeld, where he was called to the ministry. He was greatly grieved over the division at Creyfeld, due to the course taken by Christian Libe. This was perhaps the leading cause for his organizing the emigration party to America. He and his people landed at Philadelphia in the fall of 1719.

Peter Becker was the leading spirit in America for ten years. He made the first pastoral visit in 1722. He officiated at the first baptisms, council and love-feast in 1724. He was chosen the first elder of the Germantown church, over which he presided for more than twenty years, part of the time with Alexander Mack. He was the first home missionary and organized the first churches in 1724. stood firm and true to the church in the great Beis-He personally ministered to many of sel Schism. these pioneer Brethren settlements, and through his faithful preaching many were brought into the church "He was perhaps the most and remained faithful. gifted singer and the most eloquent man in prayer in the colonial church. He was not an effective speaker, but he was of sound judgement, great moderation and sufficient tact to manage successfully the mighty burdens laid upon him."

He was married to Anna Dorothy Partman. To this union were born two daughters: Mary, who married Rudolph Harley: and Elizabeth. who married Jacob They have many descendants in the United He was a weaver by trade. At Ger-States today. In 1746, his wife mantown he owned a small farm. died and he went to live with his daughter Mary. He spent the last twelve years of his life in the --HISTORY AND DOCTRINES of Indian Creek Church. the CHURCH of the BRETHREN by Otho

FOR YOUTH

BIBLE STUDY

We are studying the Sermon on the Mount for our Bible Studies here in California. We read Mat. 7.

The Sermon on the Mount is for the church today. Its blessings go further than to the Jews that heard it. This portion of Scripture deals with a lot of different subjects and the more familiar we can be with it, and the rest of the Scriptures as well, the better we can stand for the right when we are questioned.

Although we read the seventh chapter, we mainly discussed the subject of prayer which is taught in the sixth chapter.

Brother Will brought it to our attention that in order to have a good prayer life we must first believe the greatness of the One to whom we are praying and have faith that He is there and that He hears us. Prayer taps the power that is able to do anything in God's will. Prayer is our link with God through Jesus Christ. (See Ephesians 3:13-21 and Romans 8:26,27)

Why do we pray? Because from God we can find strength, and He will supply our needs.

A devoted prayer life takes persistence. And the more we use prayer, the more it develops into the most needful part of our daily life.

How can we have a more devoted prayer life? We must realize that we are praying through Jesus Christ. We cannot expect the Lord to answer prayer if we are not living in His will. Therefore, to ask for forgiveness and to plead for mercy in our failings should be part of prayer.

We should be grateful to God for how great He is and be thankful for His mercy and the many blessings He gives us.

To have a devoted prayer life, we must have our mind completely in tune with God. To just rattle off a simple prayer and go our way is not from the

heart. Our Saviour speaks against this in Matthew 6:5.

We should cultivate spontaneous prayer in our lives. We don't have to be on our knees or by our beds to come before God. A simple "Thank You, Lord," sent from the heart in times of gladness, is heard. "Help me, Lord," in times of weakness, is also heard and answered. --Peter Cover

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

Sometimes when paths get rough, And you stumble to your knees, Just truly have faith in God, For He knows your every need.

The world comes crashing down, And it tears your life apart, But our God is watching you; You must feel it in your heart.

You may be discouraged, And may think that no one cares, But, friend, you must remember That our God is really there.

Just pray to our Father
That He will forgive your faults—
That He'll take you to Heaven
When your life comes to a halt.

--Linda Blocher New Paris, Ohio

MARRIAGE

ROYER--COVER Samuel Royer and Rosanna Cover were married May 25 at Tuolumne, California.

New address: 28772 C.R. 44, Rt. 4 Nappanee, Indiana 46550 (219) 862-2659 One time a rich young man came to Jesus and asked what he should do to have eternal life. I believe this young man thought he would do anything Jesus asked of him. Jesus told him he must sell all he had and give to the poor. This was too much for him. He thought he couldn't do it, so he went away very sad. This young man, like many men today, are wanting something great but not willing to pay the price.

Once a woman was gathering sticks for a fire to make a cake for her and her son. When the cake was gone they would die, because it hadn't rained for a very long time and food was scarce. Elijah asked the woman for a little water and a small cake. What would you do if a stranger wanted you to share your food, and you knew there wouldn't be any more?

Elijah told her if she made a small cake for him first the meal (flour) and oil would not run out. She did as Elijah said, and there was enough meal and oil to make bread for many months until the famine was over.

As you children get older in life, I hope you never expect to get something for nothing. It is true that the salvation of God is a free gift, bought for us by Jesus. However, for our daily lives Jesus said we should give our best to others and expect little in return.

What a contrast in these two stories: The rich young man wouldn't listen to Jesus so he went away very sad. The woman listened to God and she and her son had enough to eat for many months. Also, they were happy. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

--Everett Oyler

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THE PILGRIM

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

We Rest on Thee

We rest on Thee, our shield and our defender: We go not forth alone against the foe; Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender, We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.

Yea, in Thy name, O Captain of salvation In Thy dear name, all other names above; Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation, Our Prince of glory and our King of Love.

We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling, And needing more each day Thy grace to know; Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing: We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.

We rest on Thee, our shield and our defender: Thine is the battle; Thine shall be the praise; When passing through the gates of pearly splender, Victors we rest with Thee through endless days.

--Edith G. Cherry

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The Principal Thing

A riddle: What is something better to get than gold and better than rubies; something for lack of which folks die; something we can obtain by being reproved and punished; something better than strength, better than weapons, and is called "the principal thing"? It is wisdom.

When we think of wisdom, we automatically think of Solomon, the wisest man of his time. But in spite of his many wise decisions and choices and the wisdom expressed in his writings, there were some things lacking in his life and some choices which were decidedly unwise. So we might conclude that although Solomon was granted great wisdon from God, he did not always follow it.

What then is true wisdom; how would we define it? Perhaps our best definition can come from exploring the life of a man who both had the true wisdom and also let it control his life. That man is the first Christian martyr Stephen.

The context of this man's life was the early the throes developement church in of expansion. The issue of the times was Jesus The still Christ. Jews were smarting from the truth of the Gospel which Jesus preached, established, and died and rose for. His life had made an impact never to be forgotten. Jerusalem and Israel could never be the same. The battle was pitched, and the Lord was working out His plan which had been determined from the foundation of the world.

Into this arena of battle stepped Stephen. The twelve apostles needed helpers. People were complaining that things were being neglected. Rather than leave their most important work of preaching the Word of God, the apostles had the brethren choose seven men who could help with the physical work of ministering to the needs of the

new congregation at Jerusalem. Today we would probably call them deacons. The first of these was Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost." The apostles prayed and laid their hands on them, and they began their work as leaders in the Church.

"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." (Acts 6:8)

The reaction to this active, faithful worker was immediate, and those who reacted were full of resentment. Jerusalem, as the center of Judaisam, contained Jews from many regions--undoubtedly learned men promoting the cause of Israel. They may have been congregated in Jerusalem for the very purpose of resisting or stamping out completely this new sect which was making such progress. The account says they were of "the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and them of Cilicia and of Asia." (Cilicia was the region of Tarsus. This group very likely included Saul of Tarsus.) They arose and began "disputing with Stephen."

One would think that Stephen would be no match for such a group of learned Jews, but this was not the case. The word says, "And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." Stephen evidently had this true wisdom and was led by the Holy Spirit. Here is something more than knowledge.

Sometimes we tend to equate knowledge with wisdom. Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Then 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Both are valuable, but they are not the same.

William Cowper, the hymn writer, wrote:

"Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one,
Have oft times no connection. Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thoughts of other men;

Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.
Knowledge, a rude, unprofitable mass,
The mere materials, with which Wisdom builds,
Till smoothed and squared and fitted to its
place,

Does not encumber whom it seems to enrich. Knowledge is proud, that he has learned so much;

Wisdom is humble, that he knows no more."

Christians are not opposed to true education. The condition of many of the colleges and universities of today make them hazardous environments for young Christians--especially those not firmly established in the faith of Jesus Christ. But true education can be a useful tool in the Christian life. However, may we remember that the true wisdom is not obtained by education. If it were, the Jews would not have had difficulty with Stephen.

Lacking the power to resist the wisdom of Stephen, the Jews "suborned (bribed) men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God." They treated Stephen like they treated Jesus. They brought him before the council. There as they looked on him they "saw his face as it had been the face of an angel."

Stephen was not lacking in knowledge. Acts 7 gives the record of his defense before the council. He gave detail after detail of the history of his people beginning with Abraham. Perhaps he was proving that he was not a blasphemer but a true worshipper of God-one who was aware of God's acts in the human history and particularly in the history of His own people. Finally he charged them with being "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears." In eloquent terms he declared them the children of those who persecuted the prophets and the actual betrayers and murderers of Jesus, "the Just One."

We may think Stephen was not too wise to confront these leaders so pointedly. But this is part of the wisdom by which he spoke. He was proving the truth of the words spoken centuries later in our own time by Jim Elliott, also martyred in Christian service: "A man is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Stephen gave his life to gain the life eternal in the presence of God.

what is wisdom? How do we obtain what Stephen had? James says (1:5), "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James also defines this wisdom: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits without partiality and without hypocrisy. (3:17) If we wish to know how wise we really are, let us go over this definition point by point and we can tell. Are we pure? peaceable? gentle? etc. I am sure we will conclude that we need the grace, forgiveness, and Holy Spirit of God to be this way.

Finally, consider the promise of God in a prophecy of Daniel (12:3) regarding the resurrection: And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." --L.C.

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Did you know you have been given an important job to do? You may not be the president, a minister, a teacher, or some other prominent person, but you have an important position, none-the-less: that of being an encouragement to others. "But encourage one another daily..." (Heb 3:13 NIV)

The dictionary says encourage means "to inspire with courage." We tend to think of those who are

undergoing trials as those who need to be encouraged, and they do. But don't we all need encouraging? It takes so little to "make my day": a phone call, a letter, a thank you, a smile, a word of praise, etc. It doesn't take great talent or wealth to do these things, so why aren't we more free with them? Encouraging others is a good way to encourage ourselves also, it seems. Wouldn't "practice makes perfect" also apply to being an encouragement to others?

"... But let us encourage one another..."

(Heb 10:25 NIV)

--Elva Royer

Goshen, Indiana

THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY

It is not the great achievement of the Red Sea crossing by Moses and the Israelites that is so stupendous and miraculous. The awesomeness of the Wilderness Journey is the fact that approximately three million people were sustained for forty years a small, dry, fruitless desert. Have thought of what it must have been like to merely exist from day to day with every human means for survival out of reach? Let us look at a few facts to see how impossible it would have been for Moses people to rely upon their own means and his subsistence: To get through the Red Sea in one night they had to have a space at least three miles wide, so they could walk 5,000 abreast, If they walked double file, it would have been 800 miles long, and it would have taken them 35 days and nights to get through. At the end of each day of the journey they would have needed space two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island for them to camp. This would have been a total of 750 square miles. The amount of food for consumption alone is absolutely astounding when you consider the fact that they were traveling in a country where there

was no abundance of natural food to be found. Just the amount needed to keep from starving would have added up to 1,500 tons a day. But to feed them the way we would eat, it would take at least 4,000 tons. Just to haul it would take two freight trains each a mile long. At today's prices it would cost \$4 million a day! Then consider the amount of water required for barest necessities of drinking and washing dishes each day. It has been calculated that they would have to have 11 million gallons every single day. Think of the gigantic task of hauling water. It would have taken a freight train with tank cars, 1,800 miles long!

Now Moses may or may not have had to do the figuring for managing the survival of his people, but God surely knew the cost. It may be more easily understood why Moses hesitated to be the great emancipator of God's enslaved people if he had any inkling as to what an immense chore there was before him. We do know for a surety that he knew the land, its seasons and size. But God was the Provider, not Moses. The requirement for him and the multitude was to proceed day by day. God supplied for just one day at a time. To think that they did not even have to transport their food and water. God took care of them—and for 14,600 days.

-- Selected by Mrs. Kenneth Martin

Uncle Ernest's Meditations

SELF DENIAL

Luke 9:23; "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." How different from the teaching and influence we oppose here in the world, where all is the opposite, to develop self, and satisfy ourselves! God condemned the Jews for covetousness. The world cannot have peace because of covetousness.

CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Man needs something to put confidence in. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone," and gave him a wife. But man needs a spiritual anchor for his soul. If he turns away from God, he will make idols or imagine vain things to glorify himself.

JESUS' PROMISE

In John 14, Jesus gave us a great promise. We that have lived in this world a normal lifetime, know that many of our plans fail to meet our expectations. But I believe the promise of Jesus will far exceed anything we can even find in this life to compare it with. There will be no disease, thorns, thistles, weeds, but all good as God planned for the Garden of Eden. As we think back on life there are times we think we would like to live over; but we try to forget the worrisome times that went with it.

THE LAST DAYS

II Timothy 3:1: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times will come." Then Paul describes the difference between the Godly and ungodly. Democracy sounds fair and equal, but it leads men to think what the majority imagine to do is all right. This attitude displeased God at the Tower of Babel. This same attitude of thinking there is no God they are to obey, causes the beast powers to rise out of the multitude of nations. This same attitude of thinking caused the beast powers spoken of in Revelation.

LIFE OR DEATH

Philippians 1:21: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." We find in this chapter, Paul discusses one of the great problems older people face. We would like for older ones to live on and on, that they might be an encouragement to us. But should they suffer for our sakes? For the last ten years I have lived where this problem is faced daily by many. We can only say, "The will of the Lord be done."

-- Ernest Wagner

WHAT IS A LIE?

Revelation 21:8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

A popular newscaster is reported to have made the statement, "The first casualty of war is truth." Is the government under the same moral responsibility as an individual? We know that God allows governments to go to war to defend themselves, yet forbids this for (Christian) individuals. Whether or not war time security demands withholding information and twisting the truth that is reported through the news media, we leave to those much wiser than ourselves.

What is important is what this means for individuals. Is it a lie to only tell part of a truth? Are there times that we must withhold information to protect individuals? Is it ever right to withhold information to protect ourselves? In the book of Joshua chapter two we have a very interesting account that deals with our second question.

Starting at verse three we read, "And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: Pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

Rahab not only withheld information, she actually lied: Yet in Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25 she is commended for her actions. This is one of the mysteries within Holy Scripture that we, perhaps, can not fully fathom. It certainly does not excuse outright lying. Perhaps all it says is that God can take something evil and make something good out of it. It may have something to say about judging ourselves before we judge others. Yet we must be very careful when we use this illustration to teach that a lie is less of a sin than putting life in danger.

Many of us often say something in jest that is the very opposite of the truth. Is this a lie? If we are kind to a brother to his face and then talk about him behind his back, are we living a lie?

Many lies about our Lord Jesus Christ come from the pulpits of the land. To deny the virgin birth, the miracles, the resurrection and other truths is to lie. This should be of far greater concern to us than any untruths that may come from civil government.

--James M. Hite Palmyra, Pennsylvania RUTH ELIZABETH WOLF, daughter of David and Elsie (Crist) Wolf, was born May 4, 1921, near Rio Oso, California. Ruth's earthly pilgrimage of 70 years and 24 days were spent as a handicapped person, and through her affliction she portrayed by her expressions, love and appreciation to those who assisted her in word or deed.

In 1924, the family moved to near Modesto, California. Ruth's father passed away in 1949, her mother in 1979, and from then on she was lovingly cared for by her sister Viola.

In 1947, Ruth heeded the instruction of the Lord and was baptized into the Old Order German Baptist Brethren Church. In later life she became affiliated with the Old Brethren Church. It seemed that the spiritual services gave her much satisfaction and comfort.

In 1981, Viola and Ruth moved to Gettysburg, Ohio. Here on the morning of May 27, 1991, Ruth answered the call of her Lord, and her spirit ascended to the Lord who gave it-- safe in the arms of Jesus.

Mourning her departure are two brothers: Charles of Covington, Ohio; Joseph and wife Lydia, of Modesto, California; one sister, Viola Wolf of Gettysburg, Ohio; two nieces: Edna Mae Thomas and husband, Robert; and Mary Ruth Strike and husband Lloyd; two nephews: David Wolf and wife, Jan; and Donald Wolf and wife, Gay; and many other relatives and friends.

On Friday, May 31, the family and a few friends gathered at the Stocker Funeral Home in Bradford for a short service by Brother Claude Boone, after which a funeral was held in the Oak Grove Old German Baptist meeting house. Services were conducted by Brother Henry Garber opening and Brother Hollis Flora taking the text from John 11:25,26. The body was laid to rest at the Oakland Cemetery. Graveside services were conducted by Brother Carl Bowman, followed by singing as the grave was being filled. We believe the Lord will provide sister Ruth's

spirit with a new and perfect body on that great resurrection day. -- The Family

?? QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ??

The first part of Hebrews 12 speaks of our need to receive and profit from the chastening of the Lord. The Lord said in Job 1:8 that Job was perfect and upright, and yet He allowed a great trial in his life. How can we discern the difference between a trial to be patiently endured, and chastening from the Lord which should bring a change of course?

--James Beery

We invite answers to the questions in this space.

MARRIAGE

FLORA-MARTIN Elisabeth Martin and Greg Flora were married June 22 near Wakarusa, Indiana.

New Address: 27320 C.R. 42

Nappanee, IN 46550 (219) 862-2427

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Jesse Cover 19293 Cherokee Rd. (209) 928-1491

BIRTHS

MARTIN--A son, Evan Bartholomew, born June 14 to Jonathan and Lisa Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

COVER--A son, Preston David, born July 6, to David and Rosemary Cover of Tuolumne, California.

Historical

THE EPHRATA SOCIETY

The Church of the Brethren in America had unfortunate experience of a division in membership at an early date. Conrad Beissel Was baptized in 1724 by Elder Peter Becker and called to the ministry in the Conestoga church. Previous to this he had a remarkable experience. He had known the Brethren in Europe. There he was persecuted as a Pietist and fled to America. Here again he came under the influence of the Brethren. serving time as an apprentice to Peter Becker, who by trade was a weaver. For a while preceding his baptism by Peter Becker he had lived the life of a hermit.

Beissel had not been very well indoctrinated, and some influences from his early experiences soon bore fruit in strange teachings. He began by advocating the seventh day as the Sabbath. Then he denounced the marriage state and strongly advocated This led to controversies with the the Mosaic law. Brethren. In 1728 he broke completely with church and was rebaptized by one of his followers. This at once caused a division in the Conestoga Church; a part went with Beissel and a part remained true to the church. Just at this time Alexander Mack came to America. He and others made strong reconciliation with Beissel, efforts for a without avail.

In 1732 Beissel left his church and went eight miles away on the banks of Cocalie Creek, where he once more became a hermit. Some of his friends. both men and women, resorted to him. A house was the sisters who took the VOW virginity. Ephrata was thus begun. Leaving his hermit retreat, Beissel now made proselyting trips Some of his through the Brethren congregations. teachings so much resembled those of the Brethren. and his manner of presentation was so attractive,

that many were induced to follow him. Even some very influential men were drawn to Ephrata. Among these were several ministers of the church. The loss of these members was serious for the church at this time. Much of the colonial church history was affected by this society. To many people outside the church, the doctrines and practices of this society were taken as representing the things that the Tunker Brethren advocated.

History and Doctrines of the Church of the Brethren Otho Winger

BIBLE STUDY: THE GOLDEN RULE

In this month's Bible Study we discussed the Rule. We read Matthew 7 and other Golden Scriptures. Leviticus 19:18 speaks of our relationship with the rest of the people of God. We are not to avenge or bear any grudge toward others but love our neighbors as ourselves. Exodus tenth commandment, deals with the covetousness which is strictly prohibited under the Old Law and also in our time. We read of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. If we were in the beaten man's place, would we not appreciate someone helping us even if he were a heathen? We can practice the Golden Rule in everyday life. It would apply at a busy intersection where traffic is congested. Do we let others go first? The Golden Rule must rule our lives in every way--not just in deeds, but in thought and word as well. Is it hard to do? Yes, in the flesh it is, but God will give us strength for it. The Golden Rule should be practiced to our friends and also to our enemies. And there may be times when we will not see exactly which way is the Golden Rule. But always be motivated by love and the best will result. For further study read Eph. 4:32; Rom. 12:17, 13:9, 15:2; and Col. 3:12-17. --Peter Cover

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FOR YOUTH

Try Again

Failure on the first try is not uncommon. This can apply to many areas of our lives--driving a car, making friends, overcoming temptation, forming a good habit. We sometimes almost need to fail, to see our weaknesses and keep from getting "the big head." God is willing and able to help us in all these areas, but we must understand that we need His help.

When we need help in sewing a dress or repairing a bicycle, we ask for it. In the same way, God wants us to ask Him for His help in learning and overcoming. Learn to lean on God in every part of your life. As you lean on Him the failures will be less and the efforts will be successful. --L.C.

'Tis a lesson you should heed--try again;
If at first you don't succeed, try again;
Let your courage then appear,
For if you will persevere,
You will conquer, never fear;
Try again.

Once or twice though you should fail, try again; If you would at last prevail, try again; If we strive, 'tis no disgrace Though we do not win the race. What should we do in that case?

Try again.

If you find your task is hard, try again;
Time will bring you your reward, try again;
All that other folk can do,
Why, with patience, you can, too;
Only keep this rule in view
Try again.

Author Unknown

CHILDREN'S PAGE

STAY ON TOP

It doesn't matter if we are young or old, we all have troubles. Jesus tells us how to overcome them. When someone throws dirt at us, we are never to throw dirt back. Just brace yourself and keep on top as the horse did in the following story.

A farmer returned from the field, and found old Nell, a faithful horse, had fallen into an unseen The well was deep, and the farmer couldn't think of an easy way to get her out. He knew if he did get her out, she wouldn't be any good. farmer chose a hardhearted thing to do. He would fill the well, and bury old Nell. He got back far enough so he couldn't see her struggle, and began shoveling in the dirt. Old Nell wasn't ready to die. As the dirt fell on her, she braced her back the best she could. When the dirt settled around her, she kept stomping it under her feet. The farmer worked hard, and the well was filling slowly. Old Nell kept on top of the dirt and rose higher and higher until she struggled out and slowly walked toward the pasture.

The dirt the farmer was throwing was intended to take the life of old Nell. Also the dirt and sin this world throws at you is intended to take your spritual life. If you keep the dirt under your feet and stay on top of your troubles, you can only go one way, and that is up. Be like old Nell and keep climbing. Jesus wants all of you to climb until you have finished your journey on earth. Then He will call you to better pastures.

--Everet Oyler Nappanee, Indiana

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."

I Peter 2:11

ATONEMENT

The black was washed within the red And purest white became.

He who was pure for me has died; Oh bless His holy name!

My blackest sins within His blood, He freely washed away. And through this act my sinful heart Was white and clean that day.

He suffered, bled, and died to cleanse The stain of my great sin; And if I yield to His blest will, He'll keep me pure within.

His will it is that we should be Faultless and clean each day:
A pure intent to do our best
And all His word obey.

--James Beery Nappanee, Indiana THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: \$2.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request. Publishing Editor: Leslie Cover

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LIFELONG STUDY

School time is nearly here again: Lunch boxes, pencils, school clothes, books, and bicycles are soon to be important parts of the lives of school children. Home schools begin again, too. Vacation is over.

I trust there was no vacation from learning for any of us. Formal schooling has a beginning and an end, but learning must continue. If we'stop learning, we stop growing, and Peter counsels us to "Grow in grace..."

Parents are perpetual teachers. In school various subjects fill the school day. They are good subjects and needful to help prepare us to be useful Christians and good residents of a complex and technical society. However, the most important subjects must be taught at home. Truly each home is a "home school" without a summer vacation.

These most important subjects taught at home (of course, supported and touched on at school as well) are the ones we need to continue in all our lives. The Word of God is our text book, and we can use SQ3R in our study of this vital book. This is an abreviation for a school study method that should work equally well for our lifetime home study.

S stands for survey. Look over the subject. Page through the text book. Use a good concordance and find out where your specific subject is mentioned. Decide the chapters and verses most applicable. What Bible characters knew and used your subject best?

Q stands for question. Ask questions about your chosen subject. Where will you use it? What does it mean? Will it apply in daily life?

Next in the study method we have 3 R's. Read: Read the material well. Read it several times noticing the main and minor points and applications.

Recite: In school this means to discuss in class what you have read and to answer questions about it. In our vital life studies it can mean practicing and trying out the principles you are studying. Study over the material again in prepar-Review: ation for the final test. And there will test--perhaps many of them--to determine how and how much you have learned. The test may come as you meet a friend on the sidewalk. It may come as you become involved in a conflict. It may come when you are alone. But the test will come.

We would like to focus attention on five of these subjects that are important ongoing studies in our Christian life. We will notice that these are subjects practiced to perfection in the life of Jesus. the master Teacher.

- This is perhaps our most important subject because "God is love." It isn't a natural characteristic but must be learned. We pray in one of our hymns: "Teach us, Lord, at length to love." God will teach us to love if we are willing to We need to love even our enemies, but also our brethren. Love makes peace and overlooks mis-Col.3:14 tells us to put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Love is a bond that us together through rough times will hold It is the only bond that will hold us totrials. gether and to the Lord. It comes from God -- shed abroad in our hearts -- and is worthy of our lifelong study.
- 2. Respect. This subject needs much study because many in the world around us are losing it. We respect God first and learn to obey Him. We need to respect His laws and His people--fellow Christians. When we lose respect, it can be our fault or the fault of others, but it always means a break in the relationship. Respect is needful in business, in marriage, in families, in church communication. Study it to profit in it.

- 3. Kindness. Kindness and respect are like spelling and reading: They go together. According to the poet, kindness is one of the "three gates" through which our speech should pass: "Is it needful?" "Is it true?" and the narrowest: "Is it kind?" This gives us a test we should study to pass each time we speak. Quite a study! Besides our words, our deeds and very manners should all be conditioned and taught by kindness. How pleasant it is to be with people who are kind to all!
- 4. Patience. The school of affliction, adversity, and tribulation is the place to learn patience. As we study in this school, we sometimes wonder if we are gaining anything. We didn't enroll here by choice--it was a required course in the Christian's life. But patience is the diploma. Happy are we if we learn it early and well.
- 5. Holiness. This course is exclusively for God's children. Holiness is an attribute of God, and He wants to accomplish it in each of us. He says, "Be ye therefore holy for I am holy." That is reason enough to include it in our lifetime study. There is no adequate substitute for holiness. It means godliness, purity, righteousness. It is the result of serving and walking with God.

In all fairness to the unconverted and to the children we must say that to be Christians is not just a matter of learning the attributes of the Christian life. We must first be born into God's family. God accomplishes this when we yield our lives to Him and are baptized into Jesus Christ. Those who learn God's ways are God's children.

Our constant prayer should be Psalm 25:4-5: "Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."

WHY YOU NEED JESUS

Some people think Jesus is nice but not absolutely necessary. They give Him their time only if more important things don't crowd Him out. Many people, even some who call themselves Christians, think of Jesus as mere frosting on the cake of life. They put Him on a level with collecting stamps, jogging, and reading the classics. (Phil.2:21)

Is it true that you and I do not need Jesus more than that? If this is true, it's too bad He never found it out. What trouble He could have saved Himself. He would never have had to go homeless and sorrowing through life. Certainly He never would have suffered the shame and agonizing pain of crucifixtion just to add a little something nice to people's lives.

But Jesus did pray "with strong crying and tears." (Hebrews 5:7) He did endure shame and mocking at the hands of men. He did allow Roman soldiers to crucify him. But Jesus did not go through all this on His own account. He did this for others. Obviously, He saw that He was needed for a real emergency, which many people do not comprehend.

What is this emergency? Well, if you heard that someone died for you, you would assume that you must have been in danger of death. Why else would anyone die for you? The Bible tells us, "We thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead." (II Corinthians 5:14) In other words, if Jesus died for all of us, then we were all condemned to death.

This death that faces us is more than ordinary death. Do you remember John 3:16, that verse that many people learned as a child? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not--" You supply the next word.

"Perish." What a word: Right away we know this means something far more serious than ordinary dy-

ing. John 3:16 goes on to say, "but have everlasting life."

This is why you and I absolutely need Jesus. Yes, we need Him as a friend and as a guide. But far too many people see Him only as a friend. The truth is, we need Him as our Saviour to save us from perishing--from suffering everlasting punishment for our sins.

How do we allow Him to save us?

We have to admit that we deserve everlasting death. Some people find this hard to do; they do not feel that they are very bad. But simply imagine standing before God in all His glory. Look at yourself, and think of His holy eyes looking at you. Obviously, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

We must let Jesus be the master of the emergency. We do not prescribe how we want to be rescued; we leave that up to Him, as a songwriter said, "Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do!"

We have to accept an unglamorous rescue. No knight in shining armor saves us. Instead, a dying man, crippled by nails in his hands and feet, pleads, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." This is hardly the way we would expect to be rescued from our most dismaying fear. But the Bible calls Him "that man whom [God] hath ordained," (Acts 17:31) and insists that "neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

By this time, you see that to accept Jesus for what He <u>is</u> will change your life dramatically. Frightening? Perhaps. But how much more frightening it is to think of refusing Jesus. He is the only one who can save you from eternal destruction. Jesus is your only absolute must.

A poet unknown to this writer wrote:

The hands of Christ seem very frail, For they were broken by a nail. But only they reach heaven at last Whom those frail, broken hands hold fast. We have to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus. No one demands more loyalty--or loves more loyally--than He does.

We have to follow Him wherever He goes, even through death. As sure as we turn ourselves completely over to Jesus, something changes in us. A new power begins to live and to control our lives. Those old bad habits and passions lose their grip. The apostle Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." (Galations 2:20)

I MET THE MASTER

I had walked life's way with an easy tread, Had followed where comforts and pleasures led, Until one day in a quiet place I met the Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for my goal, Much thought for my body but none for my soul, I had entered to win in life's mad race When I met the Master face to face.

I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me. And I faltered and fell at His feet that day While my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished and in their place Naught else did I see but the Master's face. And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet."

My thought is now for the souls of men; I have lost by life to find it again. E'er since one day in a quiet place, I met the Master face to face.

-- Anonymous

By David L. Martin in a Rod & Staff tract

Uncle Ernest's Meditations

GOD IS

Hebrews 11:6: "...For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." So we have the assurance that if we seek Him, we will find Him. We have the promise that whosoever will may take the water of life freely. Jesus is seeking us, so let us not try to hide as Adam amd Eve did in the Garden of Eden.

OUR THINKING

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whasoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." So we see we need to carefully consider the traditions handed down to us and concentrate on the good. In the 35th chapter of Jeremiah we find where God praised the Rechabites for following the command of their father.

SELF PRESERVATION

Each of us was born into this world very helpless, and in need of constant care, till we were able to help provide the necessary things of life. Then when we felt the call to turn our lives over to the Lord and follow Him, we had to learn to deny our selfish desires and to desire spiritual gifts. I Corinthians 14:1: "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts..." Then we have to give up selfish desires and love our neighbors as ourselves.

GOD'S TIME

In Luke 13:6-9, we find Jesus portrayed as the keeper of the vineyard, willing to give us another chance to bear fruit. II Peter 3:8: "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." We are made to understand the Lord works with us as long as there is a willing heart to obey Him.

--Ernest Wagner
Modesto, California

BAPTISM

Again we, the members of the Eastern Congregation rejoiced that souls are still responding to the call of the Master. Marla Huffman received Christian baptism upon confession of her faith in Christ, July 18. May she be true to Jesus and enjoy the blessings of salvation forever.

--Melvin Coning

COMMUNION NOTICES

We, the members of the Eastern District of the Old Brethren, have appointed a Lovefeast and Communion for September 21 & 22 at the Wakarusa meeting house. The Lord willing, we are looking forward to a time of sweet fellowship and feeding upon His Word. A hearty invitation is extended to all.

--Melvin Coning

We, The members of the Old Brethren Church of California, have agreed to hold our Fall Lovefeast Meeting, the Lord willing, at Salida on October 19 & 20. We sincerely invite and welcome all our dear brethren and sisters and friends to come and be with us at this time of communion and spiritual revival. May God richly bless this coming meeting and all who attend. --Joseph L. Cover

?? QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ??

The first part of Hebrews 12 speaks of our need to receive and profit from the chastening of the Lord. The Lord said in Job 1:8 that Job was perfect and upright, and yet He allowed a great trial in his life. How can we discern the difference between a trial to be patiently endured, and chastening from the Lord which should bring a change of course?

-James Beery

Answer:

I found this an interesting question. I grappled with this too, in the past. I found that I didn't always know the difference at the time but only afterwards, as I reflected upon it. As things painful came my way, which was it, trial or chastening?

I believe a third aspect may also enter in--temp-James 1:3 says God tempts no man with evil. A man is drawn away by temptation, unless he patiently endures. I've heard it said that few men endure temptation long enough for it to be turned into a trial of faith. For an example of one who look at Joseph being tempted we can Potiphar's wife. (Gen. 39) He resisted and I would say that temptation certainly led to a true trial tempted, but faith. Satan God who ultimate control, turned it around and used it for a trial of faith. Supposing Joseph had fallen? believe God still would have turned it around and then used it as a chastisement on Joseph, and Joseph could have repented and been forgiven. Joseph endured and fled temptation.

I don't believe all trials start with temptation. The fiery trials Peter mentions could take many forms. It may be forbearing with my brother's weakness or short coming. (After all, I have some too.) It may be enduring hearing profanity in a public work place daily and enduring, preserving a

pure inner life and walk with God. I don't believe trials are brought on by sin or disobedience, whereas chastisement, rebuke, correction, and some afflictions are. I've found it that way. Say, for example, I've wasted money and I suffer along with my family. That humbles me and turns me around to repentence. I realize God loves me so much He takes time to correct. Isn't it the same with us parents and our children? "Before I was afflicted I went astray." (Ps. 119:67) He must not have strayed afterwards.

Was Job chastened or tried? I believe a trial is sent to test and gauge us like in a classroom setting. I believe it also teaches obedience. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." (Heb.5:8 about Christ) How much more us, if He "needed" to learn obedience? I believe it was for our example to do likewise. Of course, chastisement can teach obedience along with its other benefits.

As an aside, in referring to Job, I'm always impressed by chapter 42:7-10. The Lord was only going to accept Job's three friends after they sacrificed and Job prayed for them. He must have accepted them, for vs. 9 says. "He also accepted Job."

Now, in vs. 10 it states, "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his three friends." First, they were still called friends, regardless of how they had treated Job, and he was able to pray for them, true friends or not. Second, only after he prayed was his captivity, or trial, lifted. How is it with us? Is some captivity, trial, or chastisement gripping us because we have not prayed for our friends, even some who wronged us? Our substance may not be doubled, but our inner life and spiritual substance may be more than doubled, if we prove faithful in fiery trials and pray for others.

I believe an inspired minister could build a message on Job 42:10. --Norman Sauder Mount Jov. PA

Historical

For the next few issues we hope to print at least some of the forty "Basic or Ground searching Questions" proposed to Alexander Mack and his brethren by Eberhard Louis Gruber, a separatist who later became leader of the Inspirationists.

(Gruber)

In God Beloved Friends and Fellow Pilgrims:

There have been several persons who have desired a somewhat more definite explanation and report about your new baptism and church fellowship, especially since that which has been said or even written about it from time to time has still left them in great uncertainty. In order to learn about your opinion more thoroughly and accurately and thereby dispel any further doubt in regard to it, these candid and herewith-presented questions are submitted to you. We expect your clear and frank answers upon these soon.

(Mack)

Dear Friends:

You have requested from us in love our motives. The Apostle Peter teaches believers (I Peter 3:15) that they must always be ready to give an answer to anyone who calls them to account for the hope that is in them. For these reasons, we have not been able to evade this, but rather have very briefly answered these submitted questions in a simple fashion with frankness in love and in the certainty of faith. We wish to leave them to your examination before God.

Question 1: Do you maintain that for over one thousand years there has been no true and genuine baptism, and, consequently, no true church on earth?

Answer: We maintain and believe that at all times God has had His church which observed the true baptism and ordinances. This was, however, always hidden from the unbelievers and often consisted of but few members. Despite this, the gates of hell could never prevail against the church of the Lord Jesus. It can also be proved from the histories that God has caused His ordinances to be revealed as a witness to the unbelievers at all times.

(to be continued)
-European Origins of the Brethren
by Donald Durnbaugh

FOR YOUTH

Ja

FAITHFUL UNDER COVER

When to the front you cannot go
Be faithful under cover;
God needs a secret service, too,
The one to help the other.
It may be in the engine-room,
Just firing the old boiler
Where it's dark and lonely, lad;
Be faithful under cover.

First, find the place of secret prayer;
Be faithful under cover;
Fast close the door and linger thereIt is the place of power.
If in the home and kitchen, lass,
Your calling you discover,
In woman's hand is destiny;
Be faithful under cover.

Elijah, in the wilderness, Was faithful under cover; God's hidden man was sent to warn Of dearth, the country over. Then, if like him to Cherith sent To wait the coming shower, He'll keep and feed and cherish you Be faithful under cover.

Perchance, you've been at battle's front;
Now, faithful under cover;
Your health is gone, you cannot work,
You feel your day is over.
Look up: Cheer up: You're not through yet,
God is your gracious Lover;
'Tis in the heart man serves Him best,
Be faithful under cover.

--Mrs. E. W. Grossman

Elijah lived during a time of gross idolatry in Israel. In I Kings 19:18, God told Elijah, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." Seven thousand were faithful under cover!

The little maid that waited on Naaman's wife was faithful to God. She told her that Naaman could be healed if he went to Elijah in Samaria. She was faithful away from home.

What about us? Our times are critical too. Are we faithful in the background? If we're doing our best work, though it may be small, it will be rewarded. It is the attitude of the heart that counts.

We should not try to hide our faith, but if our place in God's Kingdom is small, we should be faithful there too.

--Sarah Cover

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BIBLE STUDY

For this month's Bible Study, we decided to start reading the book of the Acts, chapter by chapter. The book of Acts tells of the earliest church history that there is. It is the account of the Apostle Paul's journeys for the most part but not totally.

We read Acts 1 and had many good discussions on some of the verses we read. Who wrote the Acts? The author is not named as in many of the books of the Bible, but we can get a pretty good idea that it was Luke. The treatise that the author had made earlier is directed to Theophilus. The Gospel of Luke starts by addressing the same person-Theophilus. (Luke 1:3)

Someone asked the question, "Who was this Theophilus?" Some commentators think that he was a well known man that could distribute Luke's writings easily, possibly a printer or scribe.

What does "infallible" in verse three mean? Unmistakable. Correct without a doubt.

We had a good discussion on the choosing of Matthias for the twelfth apostle. Since Judas had betrayed his Lord, there was a place left empty. Both of the disciples suggested had been with Christ during His whole ministry.

Verse six has an interesting question in it. The apostles still didn't understand completely why Christ came. They still wanted Christ to restore the kingdom of Israel back to what it was like in David's time. But with the next two verses He explains to them that they are no longer an earthly kingdom, but with the Holy Ghost guiding them, they were to witness in every nation.

A good point was made from verse 14. The early church prayed together "with one accord." This is a goal that the church should strive for now also. There is power in prayer as we see in studying those days of the early church. --Peter Cover

CHILDREN'S PAGE

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

When God created the heaven and earth, everything was very dark. God knew there had to be light for things to grow, so He created light. Now there was day and night.

Many years after God created man, the earth again was dark with sin. God caused a great flood to get rid of the darkness. Man was created so he would be a glory to God. We need both kinds of light to live: light to separate the night from day, and spiritual light to separate us from sin, which is spiritual darkness. God knew man would again fall into this darkness, if He didn't send them the "True Light." For this reason Jesus was born. As the world gets darker in sin, the light of God's children should shine brighter brighter. "The darker the night the brighter the light." Jesus tells us the last days will get darker and darker. Every child that is born into this world, is a true light for Jesus. Many times children have a brighter light than we adults. to say, some children grow up, turn away from God, and their light is darkened. A comparison could be made to flashlights. Every new flashlight we buy has a bright light. As time rolls on and they are neglected, something happens. The batteries dead. Have you ever tried to use a flashlight when the batteries are dead? It is quite a disappointment, isn't it? This is the way Jesus feels when we fail to shine for Him. We are all like flashlights; we need to be recharged with the TRUE LIGHT OF GOD.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

THANK THEE, LORD, FOR THIS FAIR EARTH

We thank Thee, Lord, for this fair earth, The glittering sky, the silver sea; For all their beauty, all their worth, Their light and glory, come from Thee.

Thine are the flowers that clothe the ground, The trees that wave their arms above, The hills that gird our dwellings round, As Thou dost gird Thine own with love.

Yet teach us still how far more fair, More glorious, Father, in Thy sight, Is one pure deed, one holy prayer, One heart that owns Thy Spirit's might.

So while we gaze with thoughtful eye On all the gifts Thy love has given, Help us in Thee to live and die, By Thee to rise from earth to heaven.

-G. E. L. Cotton, 1856

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"DID YOU SAY THANK YOU?"

The church service had ended and the worshippers moved about greeting one another and enjoying that time of fellowship that comes when men have a common bond in the Lord. Over on one side of the crowd, elderly Brother Frank was surrounded by the small fry of the congregation. They looked up expectantly, waiting for the hand-out sure to follow. A large, wrinkled hand withdrew from his pocket, and as he shook hands with each small child, he left a of paper—wrapped peppermint which children took with delight. The youngest one, new to the weekly ritual, ran with shining face to show Mother. "Did you say thank you?" Back she hurried to deliver her childish appreciation. The elderly brother beamed with pleasure, and continued his rounds.

"Thank you" is a courtesy we are taught from childhood as we receive favors from one another. We somehow realize that to fail to show appreciation is a sign of carelessness. We want to show thankfulness as a way of keeping up with our debts. A "Thank you" doesn't pay for the favor, but to omit it only increases the obligation. In many cases, to show thankfulness is the only payment one can give.

Are we so careful in our responses to God? The gifts keep coming; the blessings never fail. As some express it, "We owe Him all that we have and are."

The poet Christopher Wordsworth wrote:

O Lord of heaven and earth and sea,

To Thee all praise and glory be;

How shall we show our love to Thee,

Who givest all... Who givest all?

Make a list of your blessings. One sister objected to the song "Count Your Blessings" because,

she said, "We can't count them all." But God is the Giver of every item on the list and we keep adding to it. James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Our nation still acknowledges God as our Provider when the President each year proclaims a national day of Thanksgiving. Just how deep this goes with each citizen must vary greatly. But how glad we can be for a government that still recognizes the God of Heaven: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34) The sin of ingratitude is as wrong as any.

We can be thankful for our changing scenes. One of my greatest earthly joys was to have our children all at home, doing things together as a family. As changes come, this blessing must give way to other satisfactions as we see new homes established. If we resist such changes, we must remember that many have not even had the privilege of a family and have still been thankful. One great satisfaction is knowing that God is aware of our needs, our capacities, and our highest usefulness. If we are in His family, what more can we ask?

Another inevitable change is that of becoming less strong and able--perhaps even seeing sickness or disease grip us and destroy our bodily comfort. To help us be thankful even in this change we can do several things. First, we can look around and see many who are in worse shape than we are. Second, we can see the faithful testimony of our de-Christian friends in these conditions. sickness and weakness some. only seem to refine their devotion and make their praise more abundant. Study the hymns and learn that many came from hearts of sorrow, disappointments, and even the prospect of martyrdom. Third, we can rely on God to carry us through--even through the valley of the shadow of death. We can concentrate on His promises.

of the clearest messages of the Word of God is that the best is yet to come for His children.

So we might add to that list of blessings the promise that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. We will never be alone--not even if we feel lonely.

The more we meditate, the longer the list becomes. If we find a few things on the list that we took without saying thank you, let us run back and thank Him without delay.

God is with us, Oh what comfort What a joy those words afford: He will always walk beside us; Hear the promise of His Word.

Can we sorrow as we ponder Changes creeping in unasked? We should bow in thankful wonder Soon the changes will be past.

Make a list and count your blessings. Though we cannot name them all As our debts we are confessing We will learn on Him to call.

Praise our God and thank Him freely; Every good we owe His grace. Serve and pray and bless Him truly Soon we too will see His face.--L.C.

THE ULTIMATE CALAMITY

What would you say was the greatest threat to the human race today? Crime? Drugs? Immorality? Famine? Communism? War? A nuclear holo-AIDS? pollution? caust? Environmental While all these may be valid concerns. they are mostly influences over which the individual has external very little, if any, control. The Bible warns of a more insidious danger which, tragically, is little recognized by mankind in general but will ultimately result in greater calamity than all the above hazards.

And this danger is not from without but from within the individual. In Jer. 17:9 it is described "The heart is deceitful above all things, and thus: desperately wicked: who can know it?" Not deceitful but deceitful above all things! And not only wicked but desperately wicked: Jesus that nothing external can defile a man. but the things that come out of him defile him. 7:15) He goes on to say that out of the proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications. murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, pride, and foolishness. (Mark 7:22)

The apostle James writes in a similar vein about the tongue in chapter three. He says the tongue offends, boasts, is a fire, a world of iniquity, it defiles the whole body, sets on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire of hell! No man can tame it: it is unruly evil. full of an poison. and curses man which is made after similitude of God. Verse 14 indicates that the evil words of the tongue are the result of envy and strife in the heart, and Jesus said, "out of abundance of the heart the mouth (or tongue) speaketh." (Mat. 12:34)

Genesis 8:21 tells us that the heart of man is predisposed to evil. The Apostle James says (1:22 & 26) that man deceives his own heart. Α motivated anger, ill by will. pride. jealousy, malice, selfishness, etc. is deceived. Titus 3:3 says we were at some time deceived, so we have either a deceived or a renewed heart. are living in foolishness, disobedience, lusts and pleasures, malice and envy, or hatred deceived.

The diversity of understanding about basic Bible doctrines such as love, salvation, baptism, brother-

hood, head covering, foot washing, separation, marriage, non-resistance, etc. would indicate that many professing Christians must be deceived. Yet who would admit this?

When His disciples asked Jesus about end time events, His first words of reply were, "Take heed that no man deceive you." (Mat. 24:4) And in verse 24 He says, "...If it were possible they shall deceive the very elect." Who are "they"? False Christs and false prophets, Satan's agents masquerading as ministers of righteousness. The Apostle Paul says, "...Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness..." (II Cor. 11:14-15)

The same Apostle warns in Acts 20: 29-30, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." The Apostle Peter likewise warns that "there shall be false teachers among you, who privilyshall bring in damnable heresies..."

(II Peter 2:1) And Jesus himself said, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's cloth-

ing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Is it possible that some with whom we break the bread of communion, that most sacred and intimate of all Christian relationships. might be teachers, false prophets, subversive wolves scatter the sheep? How can this be? There could be different ways of expressing an answer to this, but I believe a basic reason is found in II Thes. 2:10-11. where we are told that some will perish "because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie..." It has been said that if we do not believe the truth we will believe a lie.

Let us look at a few examples of deceit. The

religious leaders of Jesus' day referred to their Messiah, the Lord of Glory, as "that deceiver." This blasphemous accusation is surely an outstanding example of the delusive nature of deceit. 16:2 Jesus said, "... Yea, the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." Was Saul of Tarsus deceived? See Rom. 7:11. Those who prophesied in the Lord's name and in His name did many wonderful works? (Mat. 7:22) The church at Sardis was told, "... Thou hast a name "The Laodicean that thou livest and art dead. Church said. "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;" and did not know that they were "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." These were churches: about those individuals we hear about from time to time who seem to think they alone understand God's will and separate themselves? The Apostle John says those who walk in the light do have fellowship with others. (I John 1:7)

The epistle to Timothy says "that in the last days perilous times shall come," and "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (II Tim. 3:1 & 13) Do you see any evidence of this today? I am appalled at the news accounts of some of the major denominations' efforts to accept all kinds of immorality and even to elevate these wicked people to positions of leadership in the church instead of insisting on the scriptural standard of repentance and conversion. The goal seems to be to interpret God's Word to accomodate contemporary culture rather than to abandon carnal, self--indulgent behavior and accept God's way. Surely this is gross deception in our time.

The Apostle John says, "But he that hateth (does not love) his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." Have you seen any examples of this?

For another example of how pride and selfishness

deceive, consider the account of King attempt to take Ramoth--Gilead from the Syrians. (I Kings 22 and II Chron. 18) Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, had agreed to assist Ahab in this venture but urged that the word of the Lord be consulted Four hundred false prophets told Ahab what he wanted to hear, but Jehoshahat was not satisfied and asked if there were not a prophet of the Lord available whom they might inquire of. replied. "There is yet one man, Micaiah, but I hate him, for he doth not prophecy good concerning me, but evil." Why was this? The evil was not Micaiah, but in Ahab, who had sold himself "to work wickedness." (I Kings 21:25) However Micaiah was sent for and at first replied frivolously to Ahab's question. Ahab understood this and adjured prophet to tell nothing but the truth. Micaiah did so, Ahab refused to heed and as a result, lost his life. Apparently Ahab was able to recognize truth, but his love of personal ambition was greater than his love for the God of truth.

Ahab was a king of Israel who might have had his name included in the honor roll of the saints, but instead the record says he "did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him."

And I think of Balaam, a prophet who had direct communication with God. But he had a serious problem: a deceived heart. The Apostle Peter says he "loved the wages of unrighteousness."

God's arch enemy Satan is the master of deceit and, according to Rev. 12:9, "deceiveth the whole world." How important then that we be "not of the world."

The Apostle John in his apocalyptic vision saw those who were not found written in this book of life and the devil that deceived them cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20) Surely this would be the ultimate calamity: But there is also a ray of hope here. We can have our names in the book of life.

I believe it is fair to say that all the world's social ills are the result of deceived hearts. No

wonder a wise man said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Prov. 4:23)

Much more could be referred to, but I believe enough has been presented to warn us of a grave danger that is rampant all about us and the apostle says will even be found among us. It is so commonplace we are often unaware of its presence and indifferent to its consequences. Does this alarm us or concern us enough to move us to action?

Now since we have within us this heart that is predisposed to evil, is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and is responsible for all of the world's social ills, what shall we do? Is there an antidote, a remedy, an escape from the lake of fire? We know there is, and we want to praise God that man's salvation is heaven's great concern.

According to the words of Jesus there can be "pure hearts," (Mat. 5:8) "honest and good hearts." (Luke 8:15) The book of Psalms refers to "clean hearts." The Apostle Paul mentions some "that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (II Tim. 2:22) The Apostle Peter says, "Ye have purified your souls (or hearts) in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren..."

(I Peter 1:22) This tells us something about how we can have a pure, honest, good, and clean heart, a heart that is not deceived.

In Hebrews 4:12 we are told that the Word of God is quick (alive) and powerful and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Here then is means by which we can determine whether the heart is deceived. Of course, more than a casual recognition of the Word is necessary before it can have this discerning power.

I believe the solution to the problem of the deceived heart is quite simple and yet so difficult that few will find it. It is difficult because the carnal man will not recognize or submit to the authority of his Creator. He will not have anyone

reign over him.

Now for the simple solution. It is stated first in Deu. 6:5 and restated by the Lord Jesus in Mat. 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

The person who does this will be able to recognize truth and error, will not be deceived with the world, and his name will be found in the book of life in that great day when the deceitful allurements of this evil world will have lost all their attraction.

If Ahab, Balaam, Cain, Absalom, Judas, the Scribes and Pharisees, and all the other failures of history had observed this divine instruction, their names would shine among the heros of faith.

My heart's desire and prayer to God for my brethren and friends is that not one would be deceived. Let us hear the words of the Master ring across the centuries, "Take heed that ye be not deceived."

--Harold Royer Goshen, Indiana

Uncle Ernest's Meditations

OUR THOUGHTS AND SPEECH

Psalm 139:4: "For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether." It is beyond our understanding how our thoughts and tongues work together to form words, but the Lord knows the intentions that cause it. Writing is dependent upon the same process. So a large part of our lives depends on this. Mat 12:37: "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

THE SPIRIT WE NEED

Luke 9:54-58: "And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, ye know not what manner of Spirit ye are of, For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." So we see how easy it is to follow the evil spirit and seek revenge. The carnal nature is a constant temptation to us.

GROWING IN LOVE

Romans 5:3: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulations worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." So we see how the Lord patiently works with us to prepare us for His kingdom.

REASONABLE

When God created man He gave him enough reasoning power to govern the earth. But when man disobeyed and sought to live for himself, he used that power to try to exalt himself, and think he could make better laws than God gave him. Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." So we need to change our reasoning to conform to God's will.

Ernest Wagner Modesto, California

Bible Study--Acts 2

This month for our lesson in Bible Study we studied the second chapter of Acts. This is the chapter dealing with the day of Pentecost and the wonderful outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the lives of individual believers. Acts 2 is really a chapter about the beginning of the Church.

What does "Pentecost" mean? As the name suggests, it comes from a root word meaning "fifty". Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the passover (crucifixion) and ten days after Christ's ascension. It was the Jewish harvest feast or the feast of first fruits.

It was on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the 120 believers that were gathered together. This was a direct fulfillment of Jesus' own words in Acts 1:8. The outpouring of the Spirit was also a fulfillment of Joel 2:20-32, which is quoted in the chapter. Concerning the prophecy in Joel, there was also speculation that the references to the sun being darkened may have referred to the crucifixion of Jesus.

What was the significance of the tongues of fire that sat on each of the 120 believers present? There were two reasons discussed. First, the cloven tongues of fire were a visible sign of the Holy Spirit's presence. Secondly, it was a fulfillment of John the Baptist's words in Matthew 3:11 when he referred to the baptism with fire.

Possibly one of the greatest miracles of Pentecost was the ability of the 120 believers to speak in different languages, or tongues. Jews from fifteen nations are listed as present, and there may have been more. People from each nation heard the Gospel preached in their native tongues. It is truly amazing to think of new converts from every nation carrying the Gospel of Christ back to their own land.

The gift of speaking in tongues was given to facilitate the spread of the Gospel and as a sign

to the unbeliever. (I Cor. 14:22) It is helpful to remember three things when approaching the subject of speaking in tongues. First, speaking in tongues is not a requirement. Nowhere in Scripture are tongues mentioned as a requirement for salvation. Secondly, since speaking in tongues is a gift, it cannot be demanded but must be given us by God. And finally, speaking in tongues was not among the requirements for new believers. (Acts 2:38)

Three thousand souls were added to the Church on the day of Pentecost. Each of them received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is still working and moving in the hearts of believers today.

> --Edward Wagner Modesto, California

SUMMER SUNS ARE GLOWING

Summer suns are glowing over land and sea;
Happy light is flowing bountiful and free;
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays;
All earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

God's free mercy streameth over all the world, And His banner gleameth everywhere unfurled; Broad and deep and glorious as the heav'n above, Shines in might victorious His eternal love.

Lord, upon our blindness Thy pure radiance pour; For Thy lovingkindness make us love Thee more. And when clouds are drifting dark across our sky, Then, the veil uplifting, Father, be Thou nigh.

We will never doubt Thee, tho' Thou veil Thy light; Life is dark without Thee; death with Thee is bright.

Light of light! Shine o'er us on our pilgrim way; Go, Thou still before us to the endless day.

-William Walsham How

CHILDREN'S PAGE

ARE WE FORGIVING?

A king is a man chosen to rule over a certain group of people. The men he is ruler over are called servants. As time goes on, the servants owe the king money, and the servants owe each other. Once a king wanted to be paid what the servants owed him. The first servant owed him a large sum of money, but he couldn't pay. The king ordered this man, his wife, and children to be sold to pay the debt. The servant begged the king to be patient, and he would pay all he owed. How awful he must have felt to realize his family would be sold and possibly never see each other again! The king took pity on him and cancelled the debt and said, "You owe me nothing." How thankful he must have felt: But something sad happened. This same found a fellow servant that owed him servant small amount of money. He demanded payment, but the second servant could not pay. He had no pity on him but cast him into prison till he could pay. When the king heard what the first servant had done he said, "Shouldn't you also have had compassion on your fellow servant, as I had for you?"

Jesus said if we cannot forgive others, He will not forgive us. In anger the king cast the first servant in prison till he could pay everything he owed. How sad: He once had his debt all forgiven, but because of his unwillingness to forgive others, he had to pay.

Jesus died on the cross for all of us. He paid what we couldn't. Let's all be kind and forgiving

towards each other. -- Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." / Peter 2:11

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high:
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

--C.F. Alexander, 1848

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THE COMING OF JESUS

The world is changing, but human needs remains the same. Fifty years ago when I was a boy, the birth of Jesus Christ was observed each year at the (We know this date is uncertain customary time. and likely inaccurate.) Not a lot was done -- a few were given, and families assembled. schools put on programs, and I believe Christians remembered Jesus' advent with joy and thanksgiving. The merchants tried to sell all they could, and the towns were decorated some. On the street corners the Salvation Army volunteers rang bells to collect for the needy. The depression was barely funds past and World War II was just around the corner -- in fact, had begun fifty years ago.

From then till now, conditions have steadily This country--with only a few setbacks-become more and more prosperous. Technology presented the free world with luxuries of before. conveniences unheard Television has perfected bringing entertainment and world been news into the living rooms. Travel increased widely. With prosperity and inflation. have made fabulous fortunes. And celebration of Jesus' birth has also changed. many businesses, this time of year means the year's profit. Decorations are lavish. Gifts in general are extravagant, unneeded, but perfectly wrapped. Celebrations are more and greater, but Jesus is honored less.

This change has brought a justified reaction in the church of Jesus Christ. No sincere Christian wishes to encourage the idolatry and foolishness of this season. For some, it has meant complete rejection of any involvement or celebration of any kind. Others have felt that an observance of this momentous event of the coming of the Saviour is

only right and good if it is done consistently and reverently. It is not in my heart to condemn but only to encourage a true worship of God and commitment to His truth. Our prayer is that there be no division, even over this issue, and that we be careful and kind that we give no offense. Paul says (Romans 14: 5,6), "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it... I believe this passage was directed primarily to the observance of Sabbaths and to eating of certain foods, but the principles of love and respect, and truly great issues versus less important things are seen Paul's words. Read the whole of Romans 14 to see the Holy Spirit dispensing unity and kind consideration in the body of Christ.

To present some positive thoughts for this time I would point to the various reactions of the people mentioned in the Word, who welcomed Jesus at His birth.

The shepherds who heard the angels announce the wonderful event were afraid when they saw the glory of the Lord. The angel told them of the birth of the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. (Christ means the promised Messiah of the Jews, and Lord means one who has authority to rule over us.) These shepherds went "with haste" to Bethlehem. And when they saw and heard of this newborn Saviour, "they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." They returned to their sheep "glorifying and praising God." So should we when we hear and see the salvation of God sent to earth by God's love.

The wise men followed the miraculous star from the East. Never before had a king of the Jews attracted this kind of attention. The story is a familiar one, but notice this, that they worshipped this Baby and gave him rich gifts from their treasures. So should we respond in worship and giving of our bodies and souls to our God for His wonderful deliverance from sin and death.

Simeon in the temple blessed God that his eyes had seen His salvation. He blessed the little family and prophesied of the coming conflict as "the thoughts of many hearts (are) revealed." He resigned himself to die in peace as God's Word to him had been fulfilled. So should we too, be resigned and should bless God for His faithfulness to us in history and in each of our personal lives.

The prophetess Anna gave thanks to God for this Saviour and "spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." So should we too give thanks and spread the message of God's love in sending the Saviour for us.

The Saviour's birth is truly a wonderful event in the history. May we never forget what has been done by God for our salvation. If we observe this time, may it be with reverence, worship, praise, and a willingness to tell the gospel--the good news of salvation. If we choose to ignore a day that has been distorted and used by the world for debauchery, drunkeness, and idolatry, let us still never forget God's mercy and our indebtedness. May we confess with John the apostle:

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."

Would you know the love of Jesus When He came to earth one day To become our precious Saviour As we hear the prophets say?

Would you praise this love of Jesus That has rescued you and me When he died to make us holy Gave His life on Calvary's tree? Would you share this love of Jesus With a neighbor or a friend Would you tell them how He saved you--Gave you life that has no end?

If you will, this love of Jesus You can know and you can praise; You can share it with a neighbor; You can have it all your days.

--L.C.

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

Whosoever Will

Revelation 22:17: "...And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." So we see the Lord came to offer salvation to all that will accept it. God took great sinners and prepared them to occupy high positions in His kingdom, as David, Paul, and many others, to show His great power in us to serve Him and not follow our selfish desires. So we must be willing to have Him fit us for His kingdom.

Strength in Weakness

Revelation 3:17: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." So we see how our ability to handle the affairs of this world can build up confidence in self and cause us to turn away from the Lord. This is one of the signs that the Lord's return is near. II Corinthians 12:9: "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."

Answer To Prayer

John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In James we read, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." So the Lord may need to prepare us to receive, that it will not be to our hurt. We need to patiently wait till the Lord sees good to answer our prayer.

Self Examination

When we study the Bible, we find it gives an account of almost every temptation Satan has to offer to get us to quit serving the Lord. Almost all the faithful ones were deceived at times but finally overcame their mistakes, which encourages us to never quit trying or give up to Satan. Jesus was the only sinless one who never yielded to Satan's temptations at any time. He perfect example for us to follow. I John 2:1: little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." So Jesus suffers with us when we sin. And His long-suffering is for the salvation of as many as possible. -- Ernest Wagner, Modesto, California

MARRIAGE

BEERY-CRIST Jonathan Beery and Angie Crist were married November 9 in New Paris, Indiana.

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Sincere thanks to all our subscribers and boosters for 1991. May the coming year be one of diligence and vigilance as we watch for Jesus' return. Keep writing and sending us your favorites in poetry or prose. Please also send in names of friends who may wish to receive The Pilgrim. Wishing all the grace, mercy, and peace of God.

--Leslie and Martha Cover

Historical

"BASIC OR GROUND SEARCHING QUESTIONS" PROPOSED TO ALEXANDER MACK AND HIS BRETHREN BY EBERHARD LOUIS GRUBER.

QUESTION 2: Could the church of God have existed at any time and in any manner even with but few members, without the original and outward ordinance of baptism, as the Israelite church (according to Joshua 5:5-7) existed for considerable time in the wilderness without practicing circumcision?

The church of Christ is ordained in no ANSWER: other way by the true Master-Builder, Jesus Christ, than that it should observe His baptism Christ indeed ordained everything ordinances. perfectly in His congregation or church through His apostles and teachers, and sufficiently confirmed it by signs and miracles. For this reason, the fact is incontestable that a congregation or church of Christ could never have existed without baptism and ordinances as commanded by the Founder.

We do not deny that there could have been souls who were attracted in secret to the church Whether, however, they followed and publicly professed Christ, or whether they preferred the honor of the world to the honor of God, we will not determine. As far as the Israelite church is concerned, it can be clearly seen that while in the wilderness the children had to bear the of Egypt and suffer for the trangressions of their fathers! However, as soon as they were about enter the promised land, and before they took the first city, Jericho, they first all had to God said to Joshua (5:9): "This day circumcised. have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you." Only after this did they dare to celebrate the Passover and not before.

This is then a sign for us that as long as we

walk in the wilderness and in great disorder and uncertainty—even though we have gone out of God—we can still neither enter the house of God nor break the bread in the communion of Jesus and His members. God demands also of us that we should be baptized; He will indeed demand it of everyone although perhaps in secret, if men will only listen to the inner voice and obey it with denial of self.

QUESTION 3: Did, then, the church of God here on earth completely cease to exist during the time that the early ordinance of baptism was no longer observed?

ANSWER: If the early ordinance of baptism had ceased to exist, then, of course, the church of Christ would also have ceased to exist. Even if there had been souls here and there who lamented the great apostasy, they could not have been called a church. However, we believe, and it can be shown from the ancient histories, that the early form of baptism as ordained by the ordinance of Christ has never ceased to exist, even if there were but few members.

QUESTION 4: How would you reconcile this with the promise of Jesus (Matthew 16:18) that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church, and (28:20) that He will be with them always to the close of the age, and similar declarations?

ANSWER: This has already been answered because we believe that the gates of hell have not prevailed against the church of Christ; it has endured and will endure until the close of the age.

--from EUROPEAN ORIGINS OF THE BRETHREN by Donald F. Durnbaugh

The world has forgotten, In its concern with Left and Right, That there is an Above and Below.

--Selected

BIBLE STUDY

We had a profitable Bible study on Acts 4 last month. We had some interesting discussions on the apostles' trial after they healed the lame man near the temple. They were thrown into prison and put on trial the next day before the high priest and his friends and family. They couldn't condemn Peter and John on any point, but they still told them not to teach any more. Verses 19 and 20 point out how steadfast the apostles were. They had already decided no matter what may be the consequences, that they would speak for the Lord. And verse 21 shows that the rulers could do nothing to punish them because they were afraid of what the people would do. Through this whole trial the man that was healed from his lameness just stood by. didn't have to say anything to be a witness of what was done. There is a good comparison here. Our very lifestyle should show to those about us that we are Christians.

Peter put it well that Jesus of Nazareth, the stone which was "set at naught" of the rulers, was the one that gave the power to heal this man. There is great power when Christians use the name of Jesus. This stone seemed to be in the way to the rulers of Israel. They always pushed it off to the side as useless. If they only would have accepted it, it would have saved their building and made it strong.

The last of the chapter tells us of the unity which was felt is those early years of Christianity. They loved each other enough to share everything they owned with the group. This can only be done when the believers are in unity and have love for each other.

⁻⁻Peter Cover

FOR YOUTH

IF CHRIST WOULD COME JUST NOW

It may be at morn, when the day is awaking, When sunlight through darkness and shadow is breaking,

That Jesus will come in the fullness of glory, To receive from the world "His own."

It may be at midday; it may be at twilight;
It may be, perchance, that the blackness of midnight
Will burst into light in the blaze of His glory,
When Jesus receives "His own." --H.L.Turner

How often do we consider that Christ could come at this very moment? How would He find us in attitude and act?

Have you ever stopped to think of this when engaged in an entertaining activity that had no real value but was just to entertain—to be "for a laugh"? Have you ever wondered as you were in the foolish act, "What if Jesus would come just now?" We think how it would appear to Him, meaningless, no doubt foolish.

Yet, as we know, Christ is at all our activities. How often is He recognized by us there? Isn't it more His will when our activities have purpose and are for our spiritual good and His glory?

God is not displeased when we are praising Him in song. Neither is He displeased when we work together to help someone or do some project that may brighten the life of one who is lonely or sick. We don't feel He is displeased when we are entertaining friends with food and togetherness, but surely He would be more pleased if our activities then would be of higher quality than "just for a laugh."

Recently, we came across some sermon notes, some

questions with which to evaluate our activities. One was, "Are they morally upbuilding?" Another was, "Do they promote development of good character?" And the last one, "Would they be a welcome place for the Lord to come and participate?" May we be lovers of God more than of pleasure. (II Timothy 3:4)

When we are young and strong we like challenges. To think of wholesome activities to do together is not a challenge for physical strength, but it certainly is a challenge! Maybe as we try to meet it we'll find suggestions from others who were once in our place.

Our more meaningful activities, the ones we know are pleasing to Christ, may not be filled with as much gaiety or laughter, but they are of a fuller pleasure. Neither do they leave us feeling empty, perhaps guilty.

We can be assured that if pleasing God is our highest goal in whatever we are doing, at any time, then He will receive us as "His own" when He comes again. We will be ready--if Christ would come just now.

"...Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10:31)

--Daniel and Miriam Beery Nappanee, Indiana

BIRTHS

MILLER--A son, James Eldon, born November 26, to Bill and Marilyn Miller of Salida, California.

BEERY--A son, Isaac James, born November 29, to Daniel and Miriam Beery of Nappanee, Indiana.

ROYER--A daughter, Melody Grace, born December 2, to Joe and Elizabeth Royer of Mishawaka, Indiana.

CHILDREN'S PAGE: FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Damon and Pythias were very close friends. They played together and worked together. One day Pythias did something that displeased the king, and he ordered Pythias to be put to death. Pythias loved his home and his parents, so he asked the king if he could go and tell his parents good-bye.

"Why should I let you go?" asked the king. "If I did you wouldn't come back." Pythias tried to think of some way he could prove to the king that he would come back. Pythias and Damon talked it over, and Damon said he would stay in Pythias' place until he returned from his home. Damon told the king their plans.

"But," said the king to Damon, "Pythias will never return." Damon said, "I know he will return because he is honest and true. If he does not return, I will die in his place."

Damon was placed in prison, and Pythias went home to tell his parents good-bye. The day arrived for the execution, and Damon was led by the soldiers out to die. The door opened and in ran Pythias just in time to save Damon from death.

The king asked Pythias why he came back. Pythias said, "Did not I say I would come back?" The king was so touched with the honesty and true devotion of the boys that he said, "Pythias shall live. Such true friends are worth more than my kingdom."

One of the richest gifts we have on this earth is true friends. But to have true friends we must be true friends to others. Always treat your friend like you would want to be treated.

From "A Real Friend" in God's Minutes by C.L.Paddock Adapted by Everett Oyler NON-PROFIT ORG.-BULK RATE-U.S.POSTAGE PAID-PERMIT#10 Sonora, CA

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